

Saudis clash with OPEC partners

GENEVA (AP) — Saudi Arabia, the dominant oil producer in OPEC, clashed with its partners on Friday over a strategy for limiting oil supplies. Saudi Oil Minister Ahmed Zaki Yamani told reporters the meeting of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), in its 12th day, had reached a "difficult stage." He commonly uses that expression in signal a major conflict in OPEC negotiations. Sheikh Yamani emerged briefly from the closed-door talks in a Geneva hotel during a lunch break and spoke with reporters for the first time since the conference opened Oct. 6. Asked whether he was willing to accept an extension of OPEC's current accord on production controls, as favoured by a majority of the members, the Saudi minister said, "We are not here for an extension." Other members have argued that by extending the current accord, which is due to expire Oct. 31, OPEC would gain more time to complete its negotiations on a permanent agreement to replace it. OPEC's current accord, which took effect Sept. 1 and halted a steep decline in world oil prices, limits the production of each member except Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait are eager to replace it with a new agreement that would give them bigger shares of OPEC's total production.

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordanian Press Foundation

جوردان تايمز مؤسسة صحفية اردنية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية «الرأي»

Oslo assessing Israeli bomb report

OSLO (R) — Norway is assessing whether to request the right to inspect Israel's nuclear installations to ensure heavy water sold by Oslo in 1959 has not been used to make nuclear weapons, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Friday. Spokesman Per Faust told Reuters a British press report saying Israel had been producing nuclear warheads for 20 years was the reason for the Norwegian assessment. Under the terms of the 1959 contract, Norway can demand inspection at any time of the 21 tonnes of heavy water that it sold to Israel, he added. Norwegian scientists said an inspection would reveal if Israel has any nuclear weapons. Heavy water is used as a moderator to control atomic reactions. Faust said the Oslo government has not yet taken a decision, and has had no contact with Israeli authorities on the matter. The Sunday Times of London quoted a 31-year-old man as saying he had worked on a secret Israeli nuclear weapons programme. Israel's nuclear programme, based on an experimental reactor at Dimona in the Negev desert, is shrouded in secrecy.

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Prince Ra'd in Geneva to attend funeral

AMMAN (Petra) — Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, deputising for His Majesty King Hussein, is currently in Switzerland to accept condolences and to take part in the funeral of Her Royal Highness Princess Sarra Bint Al Hussein, sister of the late King Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein — founder of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, — and King Hussein's great aunt. The late Princess Sarra, who passed away on Wednesday, will be buried in the Islamic cemetery in Geneva.

Mubarak to attend summit in Kuwait

BAHRAIN (R) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak has said in an interview that he would attend an Islamic summit in Kuwait in January and meet King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and Kuwaiti Emir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah. He also told the weekly magazine Al Majallah that he was ready to visit any Arab country, but did not want to cause embarrassment. A majority of Arab states severed relations with Egypt after it signed a separate peace treaty with Israel in 1979. "I am going to the Islamic summit and I will meet Arab leaders and friends like King Fahd and Sheikh Jaber with whom I have a special friendship," Mr. Mubarak was quoted as saying. "I have no objections to visiting any Arab country. But I do not want to cause any embarrassment."

Goukouni is 'held prisoner in Libya'

PARIS (R) — Chadian rebel leader Goukouni Oueddei said Friday he had been placed under house arrest by his Libyan backers in Tripoli. "I feel I am in a state of supervised house arrest. I suspect that I am even a prisoner and fear that from tomorrow my telephone will be cut off," Mr. Goukouni told Radio France International. Libya, which has an estimated 6,000 troops in northern Chad, has until now backed Mr. Goukouni's GUNT rebel group in its fight against the Chadian government of President Hissene Habre. Mr. Goukouni, speaking by telephone from his Tripoli residence, said supporters of his group in Libya had all been prevented from leaving the country.

S. Africa abolishes black township

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — The government abolished a black township of 10,000 people on Friday, prompting charges that the authorities were breaking its pledge to halt forced removals of blacks. Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning Chris Heunis announced the "deproclamation" of Oukasi township at Brits, 50 kilometres west of Pretoria, saying the cost of upgrading the current township would be astronomical. Members of the Brits location action committee told reporters at a news conference that residents were adamantly opposed to moving, and would resort to violence if necessary to stay in the 55-year-old township.

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Israel threatens Amal and demands return of captive airman

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Israel put up a show of force with its warplanes and naval gunboats in South Lebanon on Friday and demanded that the Lebanese Amal militia return an Israeli airman who was captured after his fighter plane was shot down during a bombing raid on Lebanon on Thursday.

The Shiite Amal militia captured the airman shortly after he bailed out of his plane when it was hit by a missile during Thursday's Israeli air raid, witnesses quoted by various news agencies said.

The witnesses said the airman, who was wounded in the hand, had been taken to Beirut. They said he offered no resistance when captured.

In a tough statement on Israel Radio, Israeli coordinator for Lebanon Uri Lubrani said: "Israel demands that Amal return the captive immediately. Israel will not tolerate any harm to the safety of its soldiers."

The Phantom jet was shot down during an air raid on Palestinian targets near the port of Sidon. The pilot was rescued under fire by an Israeli helicopter.

"Amal is responsible for (the navigator's) safety and security," Lubrani warned.

His statement came amid reports from Lebanon that Israeli gunships were cruising offshore and Israeli aircraft had carried out mock bombing raids near Sidon.

Israeli military censors held up news of Thursday's operation for hours Thursday night and correspondents were not allowed to report details or transmit film of military movements from Israel on Friday.

Amal sources had said on Thursday their militiamen captured both airmen who bailed out of the Israeli plane after it was hit by a surface-to-air missile. State-owned Beirut Radio later denied that Amal was holding them.

Witnesses told news agencies on

Friday they saw the airmen bailing out and a unit of Amal militiamen rushed to the area and captured one of them. The other landed about two kilometres away and was rescued by an Israeli helicopter, they said.

They confirmed that Israeli gunboats were still cruising off the Sidon coast on Friday. Amal militiamen and Palestinian fighters in the area were on full alert.

Israel's top military spokesman, Brigadier Ephraim Lapid, said Israeli forces would not rest until the missing airman had been recovered.

The plane's smoking wreckage was strewn among olive groves on a hillside near a Palestinian camp scarred by bomb craters from Thursday's raid.

It was hit by a Soviet-made SAM-7 missile in the first success for Palestinian anti-aircraft defences since an Israeli Skyhawk was shot down in 1982.

In Beirut, Prime Minister Rashid Karami said Lebanon would protest to the U.N. Security Council about the raid.

Palestinians jubilant over downing Israeli plane, page 2

Iranian missile attack kills 6 and wounds 64 in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq announced on Friday that six people were killed and 64 others injured in an Iranian missile attack on the Iraqi capital and vowed retaliation.

Buildings and rescue workers continued to search through the rubble of a wrecked residential area on the western side of Baghdad, where an Iranian surface-to-surface missile hit at 8:50 p.m. Thursday.

Two of the dead were children and a third was a teenager, said an Iraqi lieutenant colonel who escorted reporters and foreign diplomats to the blast scene.

It was the third Iranian missile attack on Baghdad in the past 10 weeks.

Meanwhile, a Panamanian tanker was set ablaze Friday in a shelling attack by an Iranian gunboat near the Strait of Hormuz, according to Gulf-based marine salvage officers. (See page 2).

In another development, Syrian foreign minister, Farouk Al Sharaa, was quoted as saying on Thursday his country was committed to defend the Gulf

region's Arab countries if they are attacked by Iran.

"These countries have not committed aggression and have not fought against Iran," the Lebanese Arabic weekly magazine Al Hawadeth quoted Mr. Sharaa as saying in an interview.

"Iraq committed a grave historic mistake and must bear the consequences. We cannot help Iraq unless it draws up a broad and comprehensive concept on how to get out of its dilemma," he was quoted as saying.

On the other hand, "the (Gulf) Arab countries did not get embroiled in this war. They did not launch a war and take any grave positions that they cannot justify," he said.

"Syria differentiates between the two positions, and the Iran-Iraq war should only be understood within this framework," he was quoted as saying.

Both Iran and Iraq, which have been at war for more than six years, have stepped up their land, air and sea attacks in recent months with the avowed purpose

of forcing an end to the conflict.

Baghdad Radio quoted a military spokesman as saying on Friday that Iraq had refrained from hitting civilian targets "until now." He added, however, that the Iraqi armed forces "will take all measures to protect Iraqi civilians at the appropriate time."

He did not elaborate but said Iraq possessed the arms "to turn any area in Iran to rubble."

Iran said Thursday its target was a telecommunications centre in Baghdad and that the attack was in retaliation for Iraqi air raids on Iran's heartland.

The Iraqi escort officer said Friday the telecommunications centre was unscathed. But he said 11 houses and 25 cars were destroyed in the blast while 25 houses were damaged.

One school was destroyed and another damaged, he said. A mosque and a hospital lost their windows in the blast.

The missile, believed to be a Soviet-designed surface-to-surface SCUD-B dug a hole 5 metres deep and 6 metres in diameter on a street next to a girls' high school.

Karpov: Arms accord should cover all areas

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Chief Soviet arms negotiator Viktor Karpov confirmed on Friday that Moscow would not sign a separate agreement on medium-range missiles and an arms accord with Washington must be an overall agreement.

"An agreement must cover all the main areas of the disarmament problem," Mr. Karpov told a news conference. "This is the substance of our initiative."

But he reaffirmed that negotiations on medium-range missiles, strategic weapons and space arms would continue while the two sides sought to agree on the context for a full accord.

Mr. Karpov denied that he had contradicted Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev after the Reykjavik summit by saying Moscow was ready for separate talks with the United States on cutting medium-range missiles.

"Everything I said is perfectly in keeping with what Mr. Gorbachev said," Mr. Karpov said in reference to his comments this week in London and Bonn, which appeared to conflict with Mr. Gorbachev's insistence on an arms package.

"What I was saying is that we do not rule out the possibility of using the same machinery of negotiation that we used before," he added.

He said separate agreements would be negotiated in three

separate areas at the Geneva arms talks — strategic offensive arms, medium-range missiles in Europe and what is permissible regarding space systems.

In Bonn, senior government officials said Chancellor Helmut Kohl would urge U.S. President Ronald Reagan to press ahead on arms agreements with Moscow when the two leaders meet in Washington next week.

The officials briefed news reporters about Dr. Kohl's trip, which begins Monday, on the condition of anonymity. The chancellor's four-day visit to the United States had been planned long before the Iceland summit Oct. 11-12 between Mr. Reagan and Mr. Gorbachev.

Top aides to the chancellor think an agreement eliminating medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe could be signed as early as next year, based on proposals made at last weekend's superpower meeting in Reykjavik, the officials said.

Dr. Kohl will urge Mr. Reagan to apply the principles agreed upon at Reykjavik to the superpower arms control talks in Geneva, the officials said.

In Grand Forks, North Dakota, President Reagan said Friday that

(Continued on page 5)

Soviet demands would not have harmed SDI, page 4

Hindawi says British threatened him with Mossad

LONDON (Agencies) — Nezar Hindawi, the man accused of plotting to blow up an Israeli plane by planting explosives in luggage carried by his girlfriend, said Thursday that British police who arrested him threatened to turn him over to Israeli intelligence agents.

Hindawi, 34, also repeated his claim that he believed there were drugs, not explosives, in the hand luggage he gave his pregnant Irish girlfriend Anne-Marie Murphy before she boarded an El Al flight at London's Heathrow airport on April 17.

"There is no danger smuggling drugs," Hindawi said under cross-examination at London's Old Bailey criminal court. "If she was caught I would go straight to the police and say she had nothing to do with it. She loved me, I loved her."

Hindawi surrendered to police the day after an El Al security guard found plastic explosives and a detonator concealed in Murphy's hand luggage. It was timed to blow up the Tel Aviv-bound plane with 375 people, including Miss Murphy, at 18,000 metres over Austria.

(Continued on page 5)

Tension runs high after Jerusalem attack

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Tension ran high in the Israeli-occupied territories on Friday as Israeli forces maintained their search for more suspects in a grenade attack that killed one and injured 70 others in Jerusalem Wednesday night.

Reports said that about 30 Arabs had been detained by the Israeli forces and roadblocks remained in position and spot checks on Arabs were continuing.

A spokesman for the Public Security Directorate (PSD) told the Jordan Times in Amman that

an Israeli ban on West Bank Palestinians under 50 years of age from crossing to the East Bank from the West Bank remained in force on Friday. The Israeli ban did not cover people from the occupied Gaza Strip, other reports indicated.

Three different groups have claimed responsibility for

Wednesday's attack in Jerusalem in which at least three handgrenades were hurled at a group of Israeli army recruits attending a graduation ceremony near the western wall. The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) claimed responsibility in a statement issued in Cairo while the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) — a PLO faction based in Syria — claimed that one of its units operating in the occupied territories carried out the attack.

A third group, the previously unknown "Islamic Front for the Liberation of Palestine," claimed responsibility in a telephone call to the office of Agence France Presse (AFP) in Amman on Thursday.

A statement by a PLO military spokesman, distributed by the Cairo office of the organisation's news agency Wafa, said the

Wednesday night attack was in line with a recent PLO decision to step up military action against Israel.

"The general command of the Palestinian revolutionary forces announces that a special group from the unit of Martyr Kamal Odwan operating inside the occupied homeland was responsible for the heroic operation carried out... in occupied Jerusalem," the statement said.

Osama Sharaf, Wafa's Cairo representative who also serves as PLO information officer, told the AP that Odwan was among several PLO leaders killed by Israeli commandos in a 1973 raid on their homes in Beirut.

The DFLP claim came in a statement issued in Damascus. It said: "One of our units operating inside the occupied territories was able to infiltrate all the security

measures of the enemy, carry out this heroic attack and withdraw safely back to base."

"It is only one out of a number of operations the DFLP command decided to carry out in retaliation for the assassination on June 9, 1986, in Athens of Colonel Khaled Nazzari, secretary of the DFLP central committee," said the statement of the group head by Nayef Hawatmeh.

The Amman office of AFP said it received a communique from a group calling itself the "Islamic Front for the Liberation of Palestine" urging the Islamisation of the Palestinian struggle.

A few hours later, the agency reported, it received a phone call from a man who said he represented the same group which he said had used one of its

(Continued on page 5)

Shamir forms new 'national unity' government

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir on Friday formed a new "national unity" government which is expected to be ratified by parliament on Monday, the president's office said.

After Knesset approval, Mr. Shamir, 71-year-old head of the right-wing Likud bloc, will swap jobs with Labour Prime Minister Shimon Peres under an unprecedented power-sharing accord signed when a 1984 general election ended in stalemate.

The "rotation" was delayed three days as the two men bickered over cabinet posts and other appointments. They reached a compromise agreement Friday morning.

President Chaim Herzog then asked Mr. Shamir to form a new

government. Minutes later, Mr. Herzog's office announced that Mr. Shamir had notified the president he had done so.

Shamir aides told Reuters the cabinet's composition would remain unchanged except for the inclusion of two new members.

Former Likud Finance and Justice Minister Yitzhak Modai will be named as a minister without portfolio. Labour's Shoshanna Arbelli-Amosilino is to replace Mordechai Gur at the health ministry. She will be the only woman in the 25-member cabinet.

Mr. Modai's fate was a major point of disagreement. Labour Party leaders had said rotation would not take place if he was reinstated. Mr. Modai resigned in July after repeatedly insulting Mr. Peres.

It was not immediately clear if the deal concluded between Mr. Shamir and Mr. Peres meant Mr. Modai would remain without specific functions or whether he would be promoted within the cabinet in a few months.

In return for Mr. Modai's reinstatement, Mr. Peres will be allowed to choose Israel's next ambassador to Washington. Mr. Peres hopes the appointment of the ambassador will give him some leverage in Washington regarding U.S.-mediated Middle East peace moves.

Mr. Gur, a former army chief of staff, resigned because he said he would not serve under Mr. Shamir.

Shamir aides said, however, no agreement had yet been reached with Mr. Peres on the functions of several ministers without

portfolio, including former Likud Defence Minister Moshe Arens.

Mr. Shamir has suggested that Mr. Arens take charge of either Arab affairs or Soviet Jewish immigration.

Labour opposes the proposal and views the issue of Soviet Jewry as the responsibility of the foreign ministry, which will be headed by Mr. Peres.

After meeting the president, Mr. Shamir told reporters the new cabinet would follow the same general guidelines as the outgoing government and seek peace with the Arab world.

The outgoing cabinet was able to bring inflation down from over 400 per cent a year to less than 20. It also reduced Israeli involvement in Lebanon which Israel invaded in 1982.

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Iranian boats set ablaze tanker near Hormuz Strait

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — The Panamanian tanker Five Brooks was shelled by an Iranian gunboat and set ablaze at dawn Friday near the Strait of Hormuz close to Oman, Gulf-based marine salvage executives reported.

It was the first time that Iran attacked a ship that far south in the Gulf waters in the six-year Iran-Iraq war.

The gunboat shelled the 19,925-ton tanker as it was sailing with a full load of Kuwaiti crude oil to the United Arab Emirates port of Khor Fakkan outside the strait.

The executives, who spoke on condition of anonymity, earlier thought the attack was carried out by an Iranian warplane since Iran has used gunboats mainly to intercept ships near the Hormuz Strait.

The shipping sources said the crew members abandoned the ship when it was attacked. Salvage tugboats rushed to the rescue of the vessel and brought the fire under control.

Up to 13 members of the crew of Panamanians, Filipinos, Indians and Sri Lankans were missing hours later, but the shipping sources said they may have been picked up by other vessels in the vicinity.

The London-based Lloyds Shipping Intelligence Unit said that the ship gave the location of the Five Brooks at the time of the attack at 26.15 degrees north longitude and 56.08 degrees east longitude. This would put it just off the coast of the Emirate Ras Al Khaimah and close to Oman.

Lloyds did not mention casualties and in a later report said that the master and four officers returned to the vessel.

The Iranian ship attacks in the southern sector of the Gulf are in

retaliation for an Iraqi air and sea blockade on the vital Iranian Kharg Island oil terminal at the head of the waterway.

Both sides have crippled about 80 tankers and commercial vessels of different nationalities this year in the tit-for-tat attacks. Scores of other vessels have also been intercepted by the Iranians and searched, sometimes under threat of firing.

"It is the first time the Iranians have raided vessels that far south in the Gulf," said a marine salvage officer.

The tanker was escalated this year along with the air, sea and ground hostilities between the two northern Gulf belligerents, increasing the menace to the maritime routes of the neutral southern Gulf Arab powers.

On Thursday, a Danish oil drilling rig operating in Abu Dhabi's offshore oil fields was damaged in an Iraqi air raid on adjacent Iranian oil fields. One worker was killed and three others injured when the rig was struck by three bombs which appeared to have stayed in the Iraqi raid.

Lebanon wants to deploy army with UNIFIL

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon wants to deploy regular army troops alongside U.N. peacekeepers in the south of the country, but fears they may come under attack from pro-Israeli militiamen there, political sources have said.

"The government wants army troops to deploy in the same positions as the U.N. troops, not in separate posts," the sources, who did not wish to be identified, said.

They said Gen. Gustav Haegglund, commander of the beleaguered U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), had proposed deploying army troops in areas outside UNIFIL's control.

The mainstream Amal militia would welcome plans to send army troops to the mainly Shi'ite Muslim south but the move would be opposed by their pro-Iranian rivals in Hizbollah (Party of God).

But the sources said the government's priority was to get guarantees that the force would not be attacked by "South Lebanon Army" (SLA) fighters who help Israeli troops to patrol a border enclave south of that held by UNIFIL.

Lebanon sent 500 troops to the south in 1979, but the force was shelled by pro-Israeli militiamen and eventually withdrew. The sources said this occurred "despite guarantees from the United States that the force would not be attacked."

The attempted deployment followed an Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1978 which prompted the creation of UNIFIL with a mandate to oversee the withdrawal of Israeli troops and help to restore Lebanese state authority in the south.

Israel gave control of a border strip to its mainly Falangist militia

allies, thwarting UNIFIL's mission.

UNIFIL's precarious position worsened in recent months with a series of bit-and-run attacks by pro-Israeli Shi'ite guerrillas in which five of its men were killed.

U.S. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar this week repeated his call for a total Israeli withdrawal from the south.

In a report issued on Tuesday, he said the Israeli presence provoked violence which also endangered UNIFIL personnel and prevented the force fulfilling its original mandate.

But Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin again rejected an idea that U.N. troops should move southwards, saying they did not have the means to fight "terrorism."

"First, we do not p c ginitivly to stay. Second, we do not ask UNIFIL to leave the area. And third, we do not favour any new grouping of UNIFIL south of the area in which it has been for the past eight and a half years," he told the Finnish daily Helsingin Sanomat in an interview published Thursday.

U.N. Under Secretary-General Marrack Goulding last month proposed deploying more Lebanese troops as one way to improve UNIFIL security after a spate of attacks widely seen as the work of radical Shi'ites.

The political sources said the government favoured the idea "to head off any attempts to withdraw the UNIFIL troops."

No group has claimed responsibility for the attacks, but pro-Iranian Muslim fundamentalists oppose UNIFIL's presence, saying it hinders guerrilla activity against Israel.

Khaled Al Hassan to leave active PLO affairs

TUNIS (R) — Khaled Al Hassan, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat's roving ambassador and one of the PLO's most prominent and senior figures, said on Friday that he had decided to retire from active day-to-day PLO affairs.

"There's no room for people like me," Mr. Hassan said, adding that he could not be "two-faced" as a moderate in an atmosphere in which "people are fed up with moderation."

Mr. Hassan, 58, a member of Mr. Arafat's mainstream Fatah group for more than 20 years, pushed hard for a dialogue with the United States, which does not recognise the PLO, within the framework of the Feb. 11, 1993 Jordanian-Palestinian accord.

"You can talk about retirement, if you like," Mr. Hassan said in his villa in a suburb of Tunis, the PLO's headquarters. He added that he would return home to Kuwait, where he lives for part of the year.

But he said he would not resign from his position on the Foreign Relations Committee of the Palestine National Council, nor from Fatah.

Mr. Hassan, who has appeared increasingly isolated on the PLO right wing, said that his decision to retire was a long and difficult one, which had taken him two years.

Ozal reshuffles cabinet

ANKARA (R) — Prime Minister Turgut Ozal announced a new cabinet for Turkey Friday, including a fresh spokesman in a bid to boost his government's image after an election slump last month.

Mr. Ozal named Hassan Celal Guzel, 41, a close political ally who helped to finalise the reshuffle, as minister of state responsible for the media, in effect the government's chief spokesman.

Mr. Guzel, a senior official at the Prime Ministry, replaced Mesut Yilmaz, who was demoted to the tourism portfolio after criticism of his handling of the press.

The prime minister promoted Central Bank Governor Yavuz Canevi to the vacant post of undersecretary for the treasury and foreign trade, a key post in economic management. A new bank governor was not immediately appointed.

The overall shuffle — the first Ozal has made — was less sweeping than expected, with only the justice and health ministers leaving the government completely.

In a further bid at image building, Mr. Ozal made two changes in the executive of his conservative Motherland Party, Deputy Chairman Sadi Pehlivanoglu was sacked after coming under fire for the party's poor showing in by-elections last month.

The party won only six of 11 seats at stake and its share of the poll slumped to 32 per cent from 43.7 per cent in the 1983 general election which brought Mr. Ozal



to power.

Mr. Ozal increased the number of ministers of state from seven to eight. In Turkey, these are senior to other cabinet positions and depend directly on the Prime Ministry.

Among new faces in the cabinet, Ali Bozer became minister of state for relations with the European Community and Mahmut Oltan Sungurlu, a lawyer and member of parliament, replaced Necati Eldem as justice minister.

Mr. Bozer, 61, a member of the European Human Rights Court and of the World Court in The Hague, was customs minister under military rule between 1980 and 1983.

Health Minister Mehmet Aydin was replaced by Mustafa Kalemi, whose labour portfolio was taken by Tourism Minister Nukerem Tascioglu.

Mr. Tascioglu had suffered bad publicity due to a slump in tourism revenues this year after he allowed hotels to fix rates in hard currency, pushing up prices at a time when the number of tourists from Europe was falling.

Mr. Ozal would not say why he made the changes. "I leave the comment to you. It is just a small reshuffle," he told reporters.

Cyprus police intercept major arms consignment

NICOSIA (AP) — Cypriot police, acting on a tip from Interpol, on Friday discovered a container full of weapons, including mortars and Soviet-made Katyusha rockets that arrived on a ship from Greece, a police source reported.

Asked to comment on the report, Cypriot government spokesman Petros Voskanides said only that "during a routine check, the police located a large quantity of weapons in boxes for trans-shipment at the Limassol port" in southern Cyprus.

The spokesman would not give further details, but a police source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the boxes were in a container that had arrived earlier in the day from Greece.

The source said the shipment included mortars, rocket-propelled grenade launchers and grenades, automatic weapons and Katyusha rockets.

Police said they were still investigating where the shipment was headed after Cyprus. Lebanon appeared to be the most likely destination.

The police source said the check was called after Cyprus received a tip from Interpol, the international police intelligence network, that three containers

loaded with weapons and ammunition would pass through a Cypriot port. The source said police were checking other ports in search for the two other containers.

The name and ownership of the vessel were not revealed and Cypriot journalists said authorities sealed off the area where the ship was detained and refused to allow photographers or reporters to approach.

Israeli gunboats have regularly intercepted ships headed for Lebanon, only 240 kilometres west of Cyprus. They have detained a number of Palestinian suspects and confiscated weapons.

On Aug. 3, a pro-Libyan group calling itself the United Nasserite Organisation, fired several 60-mm mortar rounds at the sprawling British base of Akrotiri to avenge Britain's support for a U.S. air strike on Libya April 15.

Last year, three Israelis, believed to have connections with the Israeli secret service Mossad, were killed aboard a yacht at the Larnaca marina by men, believed to be linked to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The three, including British national Ian Davidson, are serving life sentences at Nicosia's central prison.

Palestinians exult over jet wreckage

MIYEH MIYEH, Lebanon (R) — Palestinian commandos exulted Friday over the blackened wreckage of an Israeli jet shot down during a raid on South Lebanon.

"We will remould this plane into rings and bracelets for the children of the Arab World," said one young fighter as he picked through twisted metal fragments, charred engines and torn maps spread over a hillside south of Sidon.

Acrid smoke still curled from debris scattered over a 300-metre radius when the plane crashed in a ball of flame after being hit by a surface-to-air-missile during Thursday's air strike.

A Palestinian fighter emerging from a cave where he had spent the night said he did not know what had happened to two Israeli crewmen who baled out of the stricken jet, believed to have been a U.S.-made F-4 Phantom.

"We don't know. They landed in an area controlled by (Shi'ite Muslim) Amal militiamen," said

Mohammad Ali, 35. Israel said a helicopter rescued the pilot, but admitted that a second crew member was missing. Amal, which originally said one crew member had been killed and another captured, was Friday keeping silent about the fate of the Israeli.

The air raid punched dozens of craters in the ground around Palestinian camps in hills eight kilometres south of Sidon which were the target of the raid.

The tents of the camp, some of which were burned in the raid, were about 200 metres from where the plane crashed.

"It was the severest since the (Israeli) invasion in 1982," Mohammad Ali said of the 40-minute attack, and warned reporters to beware of unexploded bombs and rockets.

He said the Israelis had tried to land commandos from helicopters but "our fire prevented them."

Palestinian sources said the Israeli jets fired 32 missiles during the raid, the 13th on targets in

Lebanon this year. They said one man was killed and three injured. Lebanese police said three people died.

Mohammad Ali said the plane, identified as a Phantom by Israeli army correspondents Thursday night, was brought down by a Soviet-made shoulder-held SAM-7 heat-seeking missile.

He said the shoot-down, the first by Palestinians since an Israeli Skyhawk was hit during the 1982 invasion, was "thanks to our acquisition of more developed missiles and our fighting skills."

The air raid caused panic in the Palestinian refugee camps of An Al Hilweh and Miyeh Miyeh on the outskirts of Sidon.

Scores of families who took refuge in the city overnight returned to the camps Friday, packed some belongings and left again in fear of further Israeli military action.

Thursday's strike was apparently a reprisal for a grenade attack in Jerusalem on Wednesday night.

U.S. denies planning attack on Libya

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — U.S. State Department deputy spokesman Petro Martinez dismissed as "preposterous" allegations by Libyan leader Colonel Qadhafi in a broadcast interview on Oct. 16 with ABC's Good Morning America television programme.

Col. Muammar Qadhafi suggested that the United States

could attack Libya "any minute," and he said he was ready "to raise an international army against America."

"As usual, the accusations of Col. Qadhafi are preposterous," the acting spokesman said. "I wouldn't attribute any credence to his assertions in this regard."

In his interview with ABC, Col.

Qadhafi said, "if supporting the struggle of people for liberation is terrorism, then we're responsible for such acts." Libya has trained "the fighters of the Palestinian people, the Palestine Liberation Organisation," Col. Qadhafi said.

"These are people who are fighting for their independence... and will continue to do so."

Mahdi: Ethiopia accord essential for peace

LONDON (R) — Sudanese Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi said Friday Ethiopia's cooperation was necessary in order to end the three-year-old civil war in Sudan.

Mr. Mahdi, on a visit to London, told a news conference the Sudanese government had offered Addis Ababa a peace pact to end the conflict between government forces in the north and Ethiopian-backed rebels in the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) in the south.

But he said the offer had received no response from Ethiopia. Khartoum broke off peace talks with the SPLA after

rebel forces shot down a civilian airline crossing rebel-held territory on Aug. 16.

"Unless there is this Ethiopian green light for further negotiations, or unless there is disengagement from the present situation, these (talks)... will be biased lip-service measures which will get us nowhere," Mr. Mahdi said.

Mr. Mahdi, who came to power in elections six months ago which ended military rule, said Ethiopia continued to provide sanctuary, arms and diplomatic cover to what he called a terrorist movement which was making hostages of the

southern Sudanese population. The prime minister added that Sudan's resources were being seriously strained by hundreds of thousands of refugees who have flooded the borders of Africa's largest country — Sudan is the size of India — to flee fighting and famine in Ethiopia.

But he said the government would not seek to forcibly repatriate the refugees.

Mr. Mahdi also said the new Sudanese administration would review the country's \$10 billion foreign debt and seek to link repayment to export earnings.

Shi'ite group denies part in bid on emir's life

BEIRUT (AP) — The underground Iraqi opposition Dawa Party has denied any involvement in an attempt to assassinate Kuwait's ruler Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, the Beirut newspaper As Safir has reported.

It published a statement issued by the Beirut-based regional office of the Dawa Party that also denied that Alaa Mohammad Atash, an Iraqi standing trial on a charge of complicity in the May assassination attempt, was a party member.

Dawa, which is made up of Iraqi Shi'ite Muslims loyal to Iran's Revolutionary Patriarch Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

The statement in As Safir Thursday accused the Iraqi government of "masterminding

all terrorist attacks" in neighbouring Kuwait in the past couple of years, and blaming them on Dawa.

As Safir said the type-written statement also accused the Kuwaiti government of stage-managing the current trial of five Iraqi opposition activists, calling it a "comedy and a big lie."

Atash, 33, is among the five defendants who went on trial for their lives before a state security court in Kuwait on Saturday, charged with the ruler's assassination attempt in a bid to overthrow the current government. They face possible death sentences if convicted.

Despite the denial of any Dawa involvement in the assassination attempt, the statement called for the trial to be "public and under

the supervision of humanitarian organisations." It claimed the defendants were all maltreated.

The Dawa Party leadership has been believed based in Tehran since it was outlawed in Iraq upon the breakout of the six-year-old Gulf war. It also has branch offices in Lebanon and maintains close ties with Iranian-backed Lebanese Shi'ite extremists.

Among these groups is the shadowy Islamic Jihad, or Islamic holy war, which holds three American and three French hostages in Lebanon.

Islamic Jihad has been demanding the release of 17 Dawa Party members serving jail terms for the Dec. 1983 bombing attacks on the U.S. and French embassies in Kuwait.

TV & RADIO

WHAT'S GOING ON

FOR THE TRAVELLER

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

<div>JORDAN TELEVISION</div> <div>Tel: 77111/14</div> <div>PROGRAMME ONE</div> <div>15:30 Koran</div> <div>15:50 Programme Review</div> <div>15:55 Cartoons and children programmes</div> <div>16:30 Traffic instructions</div> <div>16:40 Scientific programme for children</div> <div>17:05 Local programme</div> <div>17:40 Walt Disney</div> <div>18:30 Local series</div> <div>19:20 Family programme</div> <div>19:30 Programme Review</div> <div>20:00 News in Arabic</div> <div>20:30 Iraqi Newsletter</div> <div>20:40 Arabic series</div> <div>21:20 Local programme</div> <div>22:00 Tomorrow's programme</div> <div>22:10 Arabic film</div> <div>23:00 News Summary in Arabic</div> <div>23:10 Film continued</div> <div>24:00 Signing off</div> <div>PROGRAMME TWO</div> <div>18:00 Boite aux lettres</div> <div>19:00 News in French</div> <div>19:15 La Vallée des Peupliers</div> <div>19:30 News in Hebrew</div> <div>19:45 Science World</div> <div>20:00 News in Arabic</div> <div>20:30 You Again</div> <div>21:00 Spot Light</div> <div>21:15 Saturday Variety Show</div> <div>22:00 News in English</div> <div>22:30 Feature film: Airport 79</div> <div>RADIO JORDAN</div> <div>855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & partly on 95.60 KHz, SW</div> <div>Tel: 77111/14</div> <div>07:00 Light Music</div> <div>07:30 News Desk</div> <div>08:00 Morning Show</div> <div>10:00 News Summary</div> <div>10:05 Morning Show Continued</div> <div>11:00 The Musical in Review</div> <div>12:00 News Summary</div> <div>12:45 Readings</div> <div>12:50 Pop Session</div> <div>13:00 News Summary</div> <div>13:05 Pop Session contd.</div> <div>14:00 News Bulletin</div> <div>14:15 Jordan Weekly</div> <div>15:00 Concert Hour</div> <div>15:00 News Summary</div> <div>16:35 Instrumental Old Favorites</div> <div>17:00 Special Feature</div> <div>17:30 Music</div> <div>18:00 News Summary</div> <div>18:05 Top Twenty</div> <div>19:00 News Desk</div> <div>19:30 Date with a Star</div>	<div>20:00 Just a Minute</div> <div>20:30 News Summary</div> <div>21:00 Hisville: The Story of Misawa</div> <div>21:45 News Summary</div> <div>22:00 In Concert</div> <div>22:05 Country Music</div> <div>24:00 Close down</div> <div>BBC WORLD SERVICE</div> <div>639, 750, 1323 KHz</div> <div>06:00 Newsdesk 06:30 Here's Humph</div> <div>06:45 Reflections 6:50 Financial News</div> <div>07:00 World News 07:09 24 Hours</div> <div>07:30 News Summary 07:30 About Bahrain</div> <div>07:45 World Today</div> <div>08:00 Newsdesk 08:30 Meridian 08:40 World News</div> <div>09:00 24 Hours News Summary</div> <div>09:30 From the Weeklies 09:45 Newsdesk</div> <div>UK 14:00 World News 18:09</div> <div>Reflections 18:15 Front and Backstage</div> <div>11:00 World News 11:09 British Press Review</div> <div>11:15 The World Today 11:30</div> <div>Financial News; Look Ahead 11:45</div> <div>About Britain 12:00 News Summary; Here's Humph</div> <div>12:15 Letter from America 12:30 News and Politics 12:45</div> <div>Letter from America 13:00 World News</div> <div>13:09 News About Britain 13:30</div> <div>European Cabaret Songs 13:38</div> <div>Meridian 14:00 Radio Newsdesk 14:15</div> <div>Worldwide 14:45 Sports Round-up</div> <div>15:00 World News 15:09 24 Hours News Summary</div> <div>15:30 Network News 15:45</div> <div>Country Style 16:00 News Summary; Saturday Special 17:00 Radio Newsdesk</div> <div>17:15 Sunday Special 18:00 World News</div> <div>18:05 48.5 Saturday Special 19:00</div> <div>World News 19:09 Book Choice 19:30</div> <div>News Summary; Saturday Special 19:45</div> <div>Sports Round-up 20:00 Newsdesk 20:30</div> <div>Edmond Rubbra 21:00 Abigail's Party</div> <div>VOICE OF AMERICA</div> <div>1260 MW, 7200, 9565, 1740 11/25 and 1510 KHz.</div> <div>06:00 News, Informal Presentation of Popular Music with Feature Reports, Interviews, Answers to Listener's Questions, Science Reports, Sports News at 30 minute past the hour.</div> <div>Focus, Sunday Morning 8:10 Close Up, Sunday morning at 8:10, 17:00 News</div> <div>17:10 This Week 17:30 Press Conference USA 18:00 News 18:10 American Viewpoints 18:30 Special English News Features 19:00 News</div> <div>19:10 Weekend 19:30 Magazine Show</div> <div>20:00 News 20:10 Close-up 20:30</div> <div>Special English News & Features 21:00</div> <div>21:30 American Viewpoints 21:30</div> <div>Press Conference USA 22:00 News and Editorial 22:15 Music USA Jazz 23:00</div> <div>News 23:10 Weekend</div>	<div>TODAY'S EVENTS</div> <div>EXHIBITIONS</div> <div>* A photo exhibition entitled "Jordan" at the French Cultural Centre (until Oct. 18).</div> <div>* An exhibition entitled "Le Corbusier" at the architectural gallery at Riyadh Centre, 3rd Circle (until Oct. 30).</div> <div>* Photographic exhibition of the Villa Savoye at the architectural gallery at Riyadh Centre, 3rd Circle.</div> <div>* Paintings exhibition by Ahmad Nu'wash at Petra Bank Gallery, Wadi Sajra Street.</div> <div>* An art exhibition by Mrs. Nayyar Rasidi at the Royal Cultural Centre (until Oct. 23).</div> <div>PLAY</div> <div>* "Wonder Night" a play for children by the East German Youth Theatre at 4:30 p.m. at the Royal Cultural Centre.</div> <div>MUSIC WEEK</div> <div>* "A musical week by the Jordanian musicians association at 8:00 p.m. daily at the Royal Cultural Centre."</div> <div>VIDEO</div> <div>* "Made in France" at 4:00 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre.</div> <div>CULTURAL CENTRES</div> <div>Royal Cultural Centre . Tel. 6610267</div> <div>American Centre 644371</div> <div>American Centre Library 641520</div> <div>British Council 6361478</div> <div>French Cultural Centre 637009</div> <div>Goethe Institute 641993</div> <div>Soviet Cultural Centre 644203</div> <div>Spanish Cultural Centre 634049</div> <div>Turkish Cultural Centre 639777</div> <div>Hayat Arts Centre 665195</div> <div>Hassan Youth City 667181/6</div> <div>Y.W.C.A.P. 641793</div> <div>Y.W.M.A. 664251</div> <div>Amman Municipal Library 637111</div> <div>University of Jordan Library 843555</div> <div>MUSEUMS</div> <div>Folklore Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also</div>	<div>monies from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 3 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760.</div> <div>Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qefr (Crescent Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. (Friday and Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.</div> <div>Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Mammash, Jabal Luweibidh. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 630128.</div> <div>Martyrs' Memorial (Military Museum): Collection of military memorabilia dating from Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240.</div> <div>CHURCHES</div> <div>St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, Tel. 624590.</div> <div>Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Luweibidh, Tel. 637440.</div> <div>De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein, Tel. 661757.</div> <div>Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abadi, Tel. 623541.</div> <div>Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman, Tel. 678906.</div> <div>Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 771331.</div> <div>Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 775261.</div> <div>St. Epiphane Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, Tel. 771751.</div> <div>Arman International Church (Inter-denominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Smeisani, Tel. 677534.</div> <div>Evangelical Lutheran Church, Jabal Amman, 6th Circle, (Rev. N. Smir), Tel. 811295.</div> <div>Rabbi's Congregation (International Inter-denominational) meets in the Church of the Redeemer, Jabal Amman, Tel. 606974.</div> <div>PRAYER TIMES</div> <div>6:40 Fajr</div> <div>07:43 Sunrise</div> <div>11:22 Dhuhr</div> <div>14:34 Asr</div> <div>17:00 Maghreb</div> <div>18:23 Isha</div>	<div>QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT</div> <div>This information is supplied by Alia International departures at the Queen Alia International Airport, tel. (08) 53700-4, where it should always be verified.</div> <div>ARRIVALS</div> <div>ALIA FLIGHTS</div> <div>02:50 Sams (RJ)</div> <div>05:00 Agaba (RJ)</div> <div>05:40 Cairo (RJ)</div> <div>05:45 Karachi, Dubai (RJ)</div> <div>05:55 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (RJ)</div> <div>10:00 Riyadh (RJ)</div> <div>10:00 Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)</div> <div>10:15 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)</div> <div>17:30 New York, Vienna (RJ)</div> <div>17:45 Moscow (RJ)</div> <div>18:05 Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ)</div> <div>18:30 Cairo (RJ)</div> <div>18:35 Istanbul (RJ)</div> <div>19:00 Larnaca (RJ)</div> <div>20:00 Baghdad (RJ)</div> <div>OTHER FLIGHTS</div> <div>06:25 Belgrade (JU)</div> <div>06:15 London, Larnaca (BA)</div> <div>12:40 Bahrain (GF)</div> <div>13:05 Cairo (MS)</div> <div>13:35 Kuwait (KU)</div> <div>18:25 Beirut (ME)</div> <div>18:30 Paris, Damascus (AF)</div> <div>18:30 Amsterdam (KLM)</div> <div>19:10 Rome, Damascus (AZ)</div> <div>20:30 Baghdad (IA)</div> <div>00:15 Frankfurt (LH)</div> <div>19:00 Moscow, Larnaca (RU)</div> <div>DEPARTURES</div> <div>ALIA FLIGHTS</div> <div>06:45 Agaba (RJ)</div> <div>06:50 Moscow (RJ)</div> <div>12:00 Paris (RJ)</div> <div>12:00 Geneva, London (RJ)</div> <div>12:15 Frankfurt, Brussels (RJ)</div> <div>12:45 Larnaca, Rome, Madrid (RJ)</div> <div>12:45 Istanbul (RJ)</div> <div>12:45 Vienna, New York (RJ)</div> <div>13:30 Cairo (RJ)</div> <div>13:30 Kuwait (RJ)</div> <div>13:30 Baghdad (RJ)</div> <div>13:30 Jeddah (RJ)</div> <div>13:15 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)</div> <div>13:15 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)</div> <div>13:30 Cairo (RJ)</div> <div>OTHER FLIGHTS</div> <div>03:15 Belgrade (JU)</div> <div>06:20 Frankfurt (LH)</div> <div>06:40 Damascus, Athens (GA)</div> <div>08:10 Larnaca, London (BA)</div> <div>13:30 Cairo (MS)</div> <div>14:00 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi (GF)</div> <div>14:35 Kuwait (KU)</div> <div>21:30 Baghdad (IA)</div> <div>AMIN Nawar and Sons Company, with its new offices in Smeisani, at your service. tel. 603703/15.</div> <div>WEATHER</div> <div>Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.</div> <div>A gradual drop in temperature is expected, with the appearance of clouds at different altitudes. 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Debate on privatisation stresses need to safeguard public interest

By Samir Ghawi
and Rana Sabbagh

AMMAN — Leading personalities from the country's public and private sectors found common ground on Wednesday when they agreed that drastic measures had to be taken to improve the efficiency, revenues and performance of public companies.

The agreement was reached during a specialised seminar on the drive behind privatisation in Jordan in which government officials and private sector representatives exchanged their respective views on the subject.

The government maintained its stand on its recently endorsed privatisation programme and reaffirmed its specific criteria under which public companies were to be privatised in a bid towards improving the efficiency and productivity of these organisations, as well as increasing their profitability.

Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Rajai Muasher said that the privatisation of public companies would be launched only after "deep evaluation and studies," and after measures are taken that guarantee the rights of citizens and investors.

The first panelist to give an academic insight into the concept of privatisation of public companies was Dr. Abdullah Al Maliki, chairman of the Jordanian banks' society. According to Dr. Maliki, the privatisation process means deregulating, decentralising and introducing the art of contracting into the concerned organisation's performance.

Dr. Maliki based his argumentative approach to privatisation on the British experience in this field. Dr. Maliki, who chaired the panel's discussions, cited the following as the reasons and goals that prompted the British government to opt for privatising major British entities:

- to improve the economic performance of public sector projects;
- to support the treasury's revenues;
- to solve the administrative and managerial problems between the government and the project's administration;
- to lessen the influence of public sector labour unions;
- to halt inflation;
- and to widen the base of capital ownership to include as much as possible people from all walks of life.

According to Dr. Maliki improving the performance of public companies through privatisation can only be achieved by competition.

Dr. Maliki argued that competition could not be introduced to Alia, the Royal Jordanian airline, and the Telecommunications Corporation

(TCC) since these two had monopoly in their respective fields.

"The only approach to encourage competition is to allow public companies to operate in an atmosphere of competition law," he said. He contended that there had been no separation in services to be offered by the public sector and commodities to be offered by the private sector to the people.

Following the Cabinet's announcement on Aug. 26 of its decision to convert a number of unidentified public organisations into share-holding companies operating on a commercial basis, columns and reports appearing in local newspapers criticised the move and predicted failure for the government decision.

Commenting on the media attitude Dr. Muasher said: "The uproar was due to the absence of the people's understanding of what we meant by transforming some of the public companies' status. The transformation does not necessarily mean that the private sector will own all its capital."

The minister said the Cabinet decision clearly stated that the transformation should be a stage-by-stage process after intensive studies of cases on individual basis.

He further explained that the process of transformation involves, having the public sector own all the shares and at a later stage the private sectors will be allowed to participate.

Dr. Muasher said the Cabinet drive was not aimed at changing public companies' ownership base as much as it was to upgrade their administrative procedures, which are presently bogged down in bureaucratic procedures and to encourage the private sector's return to invest in the production sector.

"We want to give public companies offering services more freedom and flexibility to move," said the minister. We also want to rechannel the private sector into investments."

During the past decade, he said, the government eliminated private sector participation in areas related to investment and offered public companies investment incentives, and opportunities.

Dr. Muasher reiterated previous government assurances that the process of transformation would occur "overnight," and that more chances should be given to both sectors to allow various approaches of privatisation to "crystallise."

Dr. Khalil Al Salem, chairman and general manager of the Arab Finance Company (Jordan), said that the privatisation scheme was an "idea of benefit" to the country since it would increase public savings and improve the treasury's revenues as well as the administration and management

of public projects.

However, Dr. Salem, a highly respected economist and a former governor of the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ), said the return to privatisation meant that the government had to outline the roles of both the public and private sector and that it had to stop competing with the private sector in areas related to investment, production and commerce.

"During the past decade, public sector involvement in the numerous investment and commercial areas left the private sector incapable of pursuing its role," said Dr. Salem, also a member of the Upper House of Parliament (Senate).

National savings

Dr. Salem said national savings should be the basis for any development schemes. "If we are to achieve an independent development scheme, void of any foreign financial influences, we have to depend on our national savings," Dr. Salem said, urging the government to encourage private sector investments.

"Private sector investments should be encouraged on the basis of creating mutual trust between the government and the sector, and through simplifying investment procedures," said Dr. Salem.

Private participation in decision making

In order to create trust between both sectors, Dr. Salem said, the government has to pave the way for private sector participation in economic decisions and priorities at the grass-roots level and to encourage the private sector in capital ownership and managerial participation in government organisations to be transformed into public companies operating on a commercial basis.

Dr. Salem did not contest the management capabilities of both sectors, but said that numerous large-scale government projects should have private and independent management in order to implement important decisions faster and to control civil servants' "apathy towards work."

Dr. Maher Shukri, deputy governor of the CBJ, questioned whether privatisation should be executed as a general economic policy on all public companies or be selective.

Explaining the positive aspects of the privatisation policy, Dr. Shukri said the move would reorganise the government's services and improve the treasury's revenues.

Dr. Shukri's approach to privatisation was "conservative" because he said there was no clear cut line on which services both the private and public sectors were supposed to provide and whether the private sector succeeded

better in managing companies and vice versa, or whether capital participation in the transformed companies would be restricted to Jordanians, Arabs or foreigners, and whether the public companies' floated shares will be high or low.

Mr. Adnan Darwazah, director general of the Jordan-Gulf Bank, said he expected the private sector to respond to the Cabinet's policy by managing the transformed public companies or in owning parts of their shares. Mr. Darwazah, however, said he preferred that if the public companies' shares were to be floated in the market, the process should be carried out gradually.

Open discussion

After the panel completed its observations on the subject, the forum was opened up for questions from the audience, who wasted no time in launching attacks against the privatisation scheme, questioning its viability.

Mr. Jameel Barakat, chairman of the board of the Jordan Tanning Company and a prominent businessman, referring to Dr. Shukri's remarks, said that the private sector would refrain from future investment opportunities unless the situation at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) is remedied.

Financial market's programme

He described the climate at the AFM as disappointing and even disastrous for many, and he said that the top priority should be how to restore people's confidence in the AFM and ultimately in investments.

Mr. Hani Haddadin, general manager of the Al Yarmouk Insurance Company, said that the type of ownership, whether public or private, is immaterial, and that what is really at stake is the declining managerial performances throughout all economic activities.

Mr. Mohammad Saleh Al Horani, general manager of the Cities and Villages Development Bank and ex-undersecretary of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, stressed that prior to implementing a privatisation programme, the process should be assured of success. He noted that the reasons cited for privatisation in some European countries and the United States may well be inapplicable in Jordan. Besides, he added, the AFM at present is not capable of handling large share offerings.

Mr. Horani summed up by asking how any Arab management would be able to run the TCC when non-Arab foreign expertise had to be sought in the first place to advise on the corporation's future.

(Continued on page 7)

British minister tours thermal power station

By a Jordan Times
Staff Reporter

AMMAN — British minister at the department of energy, Mr. Alastair Goodlad, who is currently on a visit to Jordan, Friday toured at the Aqaba Thermal Power Station to explore the possibility of British contribution in setting up the second stage of the Aqaba power station project which is currently under preparation.

Mr. Goodlad said in a press conference on Thursday that Britain was keen to extend financial facilities for the implementation of phase II of the Aqaba power station project. The British minister, however, said it was premature to specify the volume of British contribution to the project, which is estimated to cost \$250 million.

Several industrial firms will bid for the phase II project tender which will be floated soon by the Jordanian Ministry of Energy, said Mr. Goodlad who was accompanied by senior representatives of major British industrial and financial institutions.

During their stay in Amman Mr. Goodlad and the accompanying delegation held talks with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and senior Jordanian officials on means to bolster bilateral relations in energy-related topics. The minister said the talks did not lead to signing any specific agreements.

Mr. Goodlad said that Britain was planning to send a special envoy to an economic conference on the 1986-1991 development plan. The conference is due to be held here in November.

Mr. Goodlad said he and Minister of Energy Hisham Al Khatib had discussed the possibilities of Britain providing technical assistance for the exploration of oil in Jordan. However, Mr. Goodlad said no agreement on this issue had been signed.

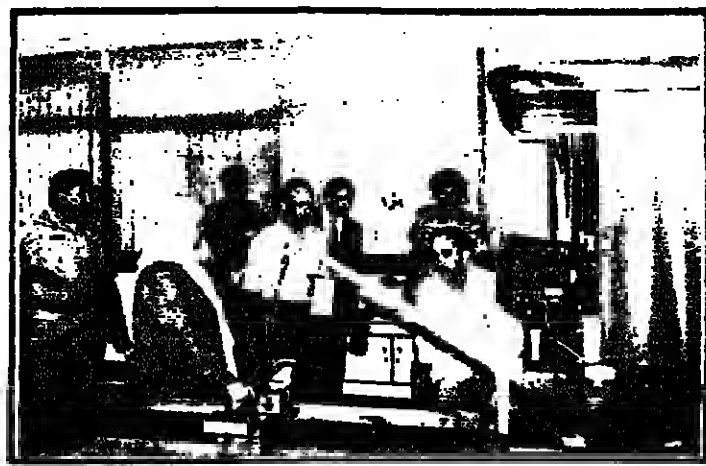
Prince Mohammad inaugurates new wing at national geographic centre

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the personal representative of His Majesty King Hussein, on Thursday paid a visit to the Jordan National Geographic Centre (JNGC) where he received by the centre's director general Ra'fat Al Majali and senior officials.

At the outset of his visit, Prince Mohammad watched a film showing the centre's history and developments and he then visited an exhibition of drawings, maps and modern techniques used at the centre. He also toured the centre's various departments and was briefed on the activities and services which the centre offers to the public and private sectors.

Prince Mohammad inaugurated a new drawing and drafting wing which has been named after the Prince, where all maps and drawings for the geographic centre are prepared.

Prince Mohammad earlier



His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad Thursday inspects facilities and techniques employed by the Jordan National Geographic Centre in the preparation of maps and surveys (Petra photo)

heard a detailed briefing by Mr. Majali on the services and information which the centre offers to various ministries and institutions on drawing up maps and surveys. The JNGC director also reviewed the centre's achievements and future plans.

Princess Basma opens centre for special education in Mu'ta

KARAK (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, president of the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QASWF), visited Karak Governorate on Thursday where she opened the Mu'ta Centre for Special Education.

In an inaugural speech, Princess Basma said that the establishment of the centre was part of the QASWF's efforts to provide disabled and handicapped persons with means of adjusting to the needs of life. She voiced Jordan's appreciation to the Iraqi government for financing the establishment of the new centre and appealed to organisations and wealthy Arab states to extend help and to contribute to national efforts in this respect.

Princess Basma also expressed appreciation to the Ministry of Social Development for covering the expenses of running courses and programmes for educating deaf children at the centre.

According to Mr. Issa Qusous, president of a local charitable society for the rehabilitation of disabled persons, between six and 13 children will receive academic education and vocational training at the new centre which has been provided with hearing aids and other facilities.

Iraqi ambassador to Jordan Ghafel Jasssem Hussein and local officials attended the opening ceremony.

After the opening ceremony, the Princess, accompanied by the under secretary of the ministry of

social development, toured the various sections of the centre and was briefed on its programmes.

She was told that 45 mentally retarded children have been accepted at the centre in addition to 11 children suffering from hearing problems. The centre provides free accommodation and health services.

After the visit, Princess Basma proceeded to Ghor Mazra' where she opened a community centre and was briefed by local officials on charity programmes, courses and activities for the care of local children. Princess Basma distributed diplomas to 26 female graduates of a dress-making course organised by a local charitable society.

JORDAN WELFARE LOTTERY

Ordinary issue No 329

Drawing of: Oct. 17, 1986

Winning Tickets

Holder of ticket No. 39386 Wins JD 20,000	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 800 each wins JD 80 39387 39396 39486 30386 49386 39385 39376 39286 38386 29386
Holder of ticket No. 59340 Wins JD 5,000	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 400 each wins JD 40 59341 59350 59440 50340 09340 59349 59330 59240 58340 49340
Holder of ticket No. 24064 Wins JD 2,500	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 200 each wins JD 20 24065 24074 24164 25064 34064 24063 24054 24964 23064 14064
Holder of ticket No. 21829 Wins JD 2,000	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 100 each wins JD 10 21820 21839 21929 22829 31829 21828 21819 21729 20829 11829
Holder of ticket No. 10573 Wins JD 1,000	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 80 each wins JD 8 10574 10583 10673 11573 20573 10572 10563 10473 19573 00573
Holder of ticket No. 10335 Wins JD 1,000	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 60 each wins JD 6 10336 10345 10435 11335 20335 10334 10325 10235 19335 00335
Holder of ticket No. 43517 Wins JD 800	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 40 each wins JD 4 43518 43527 43617 44517 53517 43516 43507 43417 42517 33517
Holder of ticket No. 34445 Wins JD 600	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 20 each wins JD 2 34446 34455 34545 35445 44445 34444 34435 34345 33445 24445

Ticket numbers	06782 02281 56696 56434	win JD 200 each
Ticket numbers	08914 55047 30770	win JD 100 each

TICKETS ENDING WITH

8073 4921 7028 1528 0825	Win JD 20 each	5077 7480 9514 7911 6365	Win JD 10 each
565 567 678 567 090	Win JD 5 each		
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ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Friday's

Al Ra'i: Israel strikes again

ISRAEL yesterday added one more link to the long chain of acts of aggression and terrorism on Arab countries by raiding Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon. The victims as usual are women, children and old men. The loss of one of Israel's planes over the region shot down by an anti-aircraft missile has perhaps acted as a reminder that further acts of aggression on the Arabs would not be a mere picnic for the Israeli pilots, and that the acts of terrorism in South Lebanon has become costly for Israel materially and in terms of human resources. The killing or capturing of the pilots mean that the aggressors and the invaders would never escape punishment from now on, and that the Israeli drive to undermine the peace efforts are now facing one set back after another. The shooting down of an Israeli plane in Lebanon meant that the Israelis are having miscalculations about their aggressive policies in South Lebanon, and that the acts of terrorism being practised against the people in that region has come to an end. The invaders who carry weapons to destroy Arab homes and kill Arab children should not expect to be welcomed with roses and olive branches by the local population. Israel should realise that it can no longer have peace and maintain its occupation of Arab soil for ever.

Al Dustour: Anti-Israeli resistance escalated

YITZHAK Shamir who is due to take over as prime minister in Israel has declared openly that he refuses all initiatives for a just solution for the Middle East problem that can lead to genuine peace. He made a statement in which he emphasised his belief that the occupied Arab lands were Israeli territory, and that the Palestinians have no right in their homeland. It is therefore not surprising to witness an escalation of Palestinian resistance activity against the Israeli occupiers and more acts of violence against the invaders of Palestine. The daring attack on the Israeli soldiers inside occupied Arab Jerusalem is perhaps an image of the highest degree of struggle and defiance against the Israeli enemy and reflects the determination of the Arab people to put an end to Israeli oppression and acts of terrorism directed against the indigenous population. The operation in Arab Jerusalem came as a natural result of Israel's inhuman and arbitrary measure against the Arab people of Palestine and the continued occupation of Arab land. As the Palestinians carry out legitimate resistance activity against the occupation forces in Arab land, the Israelis respond by escalating their raids and their aggression on South Lebanon in total defiance of international laws and principles and in flagrant challenge to the will of the international community and the United Nations. Israel's behaviour and aggression are responsible for all the tension in our region and danger to world peace.

Sawt Al Shaab: Tension on the rise

THE Middle East has over the past few days witnessed a series of acts of violence which do not augur well for the cause of peace in the region. The lack of peace in our part of the world has prompted resistance activity and the grenade attack on the occupation forces in Arab Jerusalem, which promptly drew Israeli raids on South Lebanon. But the absence of peace from this region is without doubt the fault of Israel which has been refusing all initiatives for settling the Arab-Israeli conflict, and has continued to occupy Arab land in defiance of the will of world nations and in total disregard to international principles and laws. These practices and Israeli arbitrary measures against the Palestinian people are enough cause for the escalation of tension in our region and are the prime motive for the resurgence of acts of violence. The return to violence in the Middle East stems from Israel's behaviour and its intransigent attitude towards peace and all bids for stability and security. The resistance activity in the occupied territory is no more than a reaction to such policies and attitudes and its total disregard to the rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland.

Thursday's

Al Ra'i: A reminder

DESPITE the prevailing weak Arab situation and regardless of the disarray in Arab ranks at the moment, the torch of resistance continues to burn as brilliant as ever. This resistance, represented in the bomb attack on Israeli troops in Arab Jerusalem serves as a call on the Arabs to wake up, and also acts as an encouragement for all Arab people who have begun to lose hope of ever getting salvation and liberation of their usurped land. The continued acts of resistance against the Israeli forces in the occupied territories underline the fact that the Arabs cannot and will not capitulate to oppression and pressure; and cannot succumb to the will of the invaders and the aggressors. The Arab people in the past rose from slumber and took up the struggle against invaders of their countries; and despite the present setbacks and the presence of negative elements among them, the Arabs can and will rise again in the face of oppression. The struggle could be long and costly, but diligent and relentless efforts would be rewarded and the dream would be translated into reality at the end despite the seemingly unsurmountable challenges facing the Arab Nation.

Al Dustour: Reconciliation hopes revived

REPORTS about the imminent resumption of an Arab committee's mission for settling inter Arab differences have revived hopes that joint Arab action would eventually be underway for the sake of safeguarding Arab national interests. The committee which has reportedly embarked on contacts between Damascus and Baghdad is trying hard to pave the way for convening an Arab summit conference. There is no doubt that the committee's work will be complementary to that which has been undertaken by Jordan to bring the two capitals closer together and to re-unify Arab ranks in the face of the common challenges and dangers. For this reason, Jordan warmly welcomes such efforts and is encouraged by the resumption of the committee's mission because it is designed to bolster solidarity among Arab states, enabling them to counter the challenges and confront the numerous dangers. The success of the committee's mission is bound to have beneficial effects on joint Arab action and Arab rights. For its part, Jordan has never stopped and will never cease to exert all possible efforts to achieve national objectives, and will be more than happy to see the committee achieve success.

Mitterrand sows doubt over his future re-election plans

By Jeffrey Ulbrich
The Associated Press

PARIS — With a few ambiguous comments, Socialist President Francois Mitterrand has renewed speculation about his plans in presidential elections that are still 17 months away.

Chatting with reporters last Monday night after watching military exercises in the south of France, Mitterrand said he is not now a candidate for re-election to a new seven-year term in 1988, but he added that events could make him change his mind.

"In the art of speaking to say nothing, all the while provoking interest and transforming sustained ambiguity into a formidable tactical arm, Mr. Mitterrand is decidedly formidable," a newspaper editorial said on Tuesday.

Unofficially, the 1988 presidential campaign began immediately after the March 16 legislative elections when the right ousted the left from control of the

National Assembly.

Those elections created what the French call "cohabitation," or power-sharing between the Socialist president and the conservative government, led by Premier Jacques Chirac.

Responding to the ritual question about his future political plans, Mitterrand said: "I am not a candidate. I am president."

"Each time I think about this business, everything encourages me to say: No, I will not be a candidate. I do not push ambition to the point of wanting to install myself permanently in this function."

He qualified his declaration, however, by saying: "Will elements intervene to tell me: oh well, that's a mistake? I cannot guess. How much time is left for that? In principle, 17 months."

It is clear there is no advantage for Mitterrand, who turned 70 last Thursday, in declaring his candidacy so far in advance.

The president has profited enormously from cohabitation,

where he has projected himself as the "president of all the French" and constitutional "arbiter" of the government. His popularity has soared from about 30 per cent to more than 50 per cent in the opinion polls.

With an early declaration, he would forfeit his arbiter role and all subsequent statements would be seen in a partisan political context.

There is no shortage of potential presidential candidates on the left or the right.

In the Socialist camp, the most often mentioned name is that of Michel Rocard, a former agriculture minister and leftist political figure who ranks consistently high in the polls. Rocard already has said he plans to run.

Also on the left are former premier Laurent Fabius, former education minister Jean-Pierre Chevènement, leader of the party's left wing, and possibly party first secretary Lionel Jospin.

On the right, Chirac has clear presidential ambitions, as does



Francois Mitterrand

former premier Raymond Barre, and perhaps even former president Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, defeated by Mitterrand in 1981.

Adding to the confusion is an earlier statement by Louis Mermaz, formerly the president of the National Assembly and one of Mitterrand's closest associates,

who said he was convinced the president would run again.

But the political scene is too fluid at the moment, and Mitterrand is right when he says many things could happen in 17 months.

First of all, much depends on the performance of Chirac's government. If the premier's economic programme succeeds in chipping away at unemployment and boosting critical figures, Mitterrand's chances for re-election would suffer. Also, by waiting until the last minute to announce a final decision, he is holding off a potentially disastrous split in the Socialist Party caused by numerous Socialist aspirants struggling to win the nomination.

High-ranking Socialist figures such as Chevènement, Jean Poperen, No. 2 man in the party, and former finance minister Pierre Bérégovoy repeated the general sentiment that Mitterrand is by far the best Socialist candidate.

But Mitterrand would be 78 years old at the end of a second

term, and he has said himself that 14 years in the presidency is too long.

The ruling coalition of Chirac's conservative Rally for the Republic Party and the centrist Union for French Democracy also has begun to show some hairline cracks that could widen to the benefit of the left.

Michele Gendreau-Massaloux, Mitterrand's spokesman, refused to predict her boss' potential candidacy, saying the question "is not the preoccupation of the president, who is assuming his function, which is the president of all the French people."

Nonetheless, Mitterrand is the consummate politician, and he never makes statements haphazardly — though in this case, nobody is really quite sure what he wants to say.

As one long-time political observer put it: "Ask any of the 577 deputies in the National Assembly what Mitterrand meant, and you will get 577 different interpretations."

Reagan adopts Soviet plan

By William Scally
Reuters

WASHINGTON — President Reagan's proposal in Iceland to eliminate all strategic nuclear missiles resembles a plan he cold-shouldered when it was put forward last January by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

When Gorbachev offered to free the world of nuclear weapons by the end of the century through phased reductions, Reagan objected, partly on the ground that it would leave the West without the ability to offset with nuclear weapons what the West claims a commanding Soviet superiority in conventional arms.

The Reykjavik meeting last weekend produced a potential agreement on a similar plan, proposed by Reagan in the late stages of the talks, to reduce nuclear missiles by 50 per cent in five years and to eliminate them in 10 years.

Reagan and Gorbachev also agreed on a potential framework under which medium-range nuclear missiles in the European theatre would be eliminated.

But the agreements — that might have been founded over Reagan's Strategic Defence Initiative — popularly known as "Star Wars" — with the U.S. president refusing to curtail it as much as the Soviet leader wanted.

In reacting to Gorbachev's January proposal, Reagan objected that total elimination of nuclear weapons would require "correction of the conventional and other force imbalances, full compliance with existing and future treaty obligations (and) peaceful resolution of regional

conflicts."

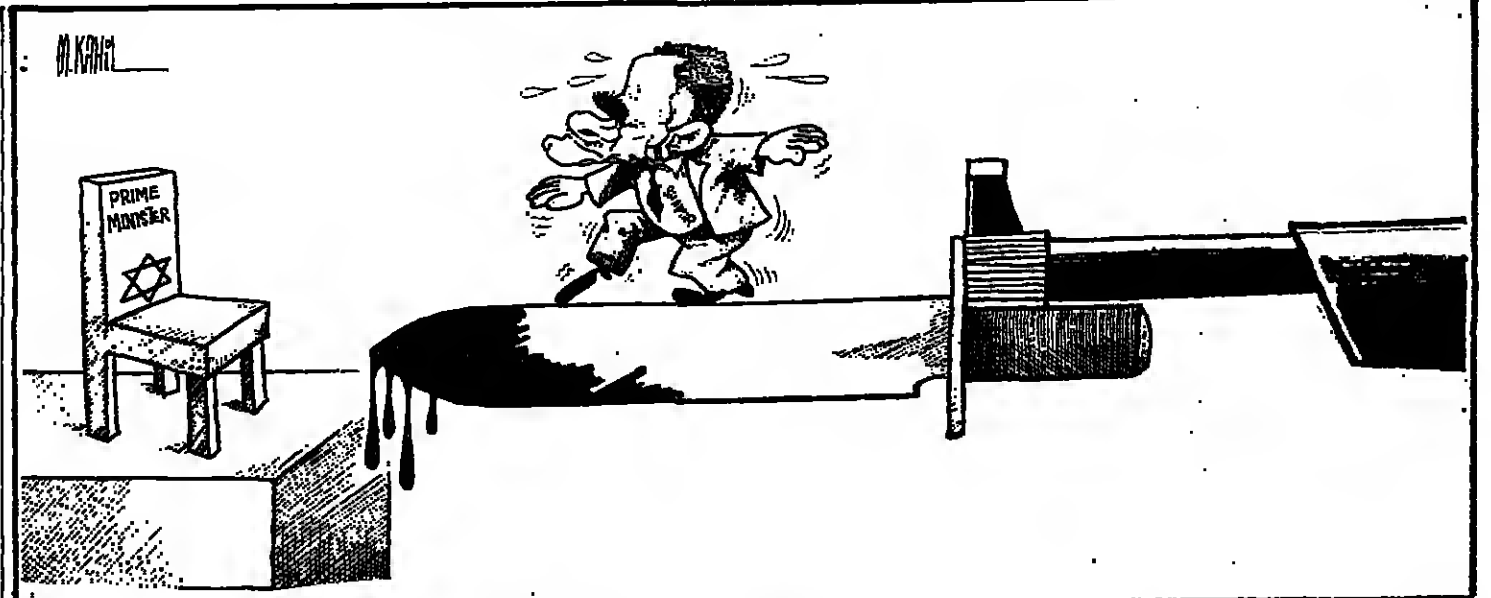
He said many of the details of the subsequent phases of Gorbachev's plan, in which missiles would be reduced and other countries brought into the agreement, "are clearly not appropriate for consideration at this time."

Reagan's concern about conventional force imbalances echoes that of other military generals who argue that without nuclear weapons, the West would either have to increase defence spending enormously or face the danger of being overrun by superior numbers of men and weapons.

The International Institute for Strategic Studies lists Warsaw pact uniformed manpower as 6.4 million, compared to NATO's five million. It says the Warsaw pact has 52,600 main battle tanks compared with NATO's 20,333 and 30,500 pieces of artillery and multiple rocket launchers against NATO's 9,414.

Further if all medium-range nuclear missiles were removed from Europe, allied concern over Soviet short-range missiles would be increased because these could be moved forward to take over medium-range missile targets, a western expert said.

The expert Reykjavik agreement on medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe was similar to the so-called "zero option" which Washington has long stated to be its ultimate goal. It would have eliminated all 572 single-warhead American Pershing-2 and Cruise missiles deployed or planned in five allied countries and 341 Soviet triple-warhead SS-20s targeted on Western Europe.



'Soviet demand would not have hurt Star Wars'

By Christopher Hanson
Reuters

WASHINGTON — President Ronald Reagan's rejection of a Soviet call for a 10-year ban on "Star Wars" space testing deadlocked the Iceland summit, but some U.S. experts say such a ban would not have hurt the scheme.

Reagan said in a television address last Tuesday night that the Soviet proposal was "in effect ... killing" his plan — formally called the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) — to protect populations with a space-based shield against nuclear attack.

Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev moved towards a sweeping pact to scrap all long-range strategic nuclear weapons in 10 years and to limit each side to 100 medium-range

missiles, none of which would be based in Europe.

The pact foundered on Gorbachev's demand that superpower SDI research be confined to the laboratory for 10 years.

Reagan rejected this condition, and his aides said it would have been a serious setback to SDI which, they said, required tests in space of laser weapons, infra-red missile-spotting sensors and other technologies needed to destroy attacking missiles in flight.

But some U.S. scientists say a 10-year hiatus on Star Wars space testing would not have hurt the programme and might even have helped it.

"Realistically speaking, we are decades away from deploying any kind of an effective defence," said Charles Monfort, a space analyst with the Liberal Union of Concerned Scientists lobby group.

Ten years of lab research would not alter that timetable, he said. Physicist Richard Garwin, a Pentagon consultant and nuclear weapons expert with International

Business Machines, told Reuters planned SDI space tests of laser aiming devices and other systems were more for public relations than research and were aimed at increasing congressional funding for SDI.

Confining work to laboratories might make the programme less dazzling but could force scientists to focus more of their attention on major hurdles standing in the way of Reagan's dream of a leak-proof shield against missile attack.

Among those hurdles, scientists say, is finding a way to prevent each and every nuclear warhead from hitting its target.

In addition to thousands of warheads, Moscow could be expected to develop tens of thousands of decoys to confuse Star Wars defences. If only a handful of missiles got through, America's major cities could be destroyed.

John Pike, a space policy analyst for the Federation of American Scientists, which has been critical of SDI, said another key hurdle was in developing a

computer system sophisticated enough to make thousands of split-second defence decisions during a missile attack.

A Star Wars system could not work without such a master-computer and some SDI scientists have left the programme in frustration, citing computer difficulties.

Pike said work on certain components of an SDI system — lasers, for instance — was outpacing advances in required computer technology.

Confining work to laboratories might force Star Wars scientists to coordinate their efforts so that weapons and computers "would all fit together," Pike said.

He said large vacuum chambers, simulating space, could be used for all needed SDI tests over the next 10 years.

Reagan administration officials and scientists who support Star Wars, such as Dartmouth College's Robert Jastrow, say space tests are vital for confidence the system could work.

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Ministry honours local farmers

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan observed World Food Day (WFD) on Thursday by organising a ceremony at the Tyche Hotel where eight Jordanian farmers were honoured for their outstanding efforts and distinguished work in crop production and animal husbandry.

The eight were selected for their efforts in growing crops in irrigated and rain fed regions, raising livestock, marketing local produce and undertaking a pilot project for growing apples in Shobak district. Also receiving an award was the Arab Fish Company for its fish farm project in the Jordan Valley.

The ceremony was addressed by Minister of Agriculture Under Secretary Salem Al Lawzi who underlined the need for Arab countries to double their efforts in the fight against hunger, poverty and malnutrition by intensifying their endeavours to increase food production. Dr. Lawzi paid tribute to the World Food Programme (WFP), established by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), for helping to promote agricultural production in Jordan. WFP allocates 80 per cent of its total revenues and budgets to help countries increase food production, Dr. Lawzi noted.

Referring to agricultural development in Jordan, Dr. Lawzi said that the government has been

undertaking numerous projects designed to provide water supplies and agricultural extension services to farmers. Jordan is observing WFD under the slogan organising the process of agricultural production, because it wants to emphasise its keenness on increasing production by all possible means, Dr. Lawzi continued.

The Ministry of Agriculture's efforts are also directed towards encouraging projects for producing lean meat through raising cattle and sheep, improving pasture land, providing fodder to farmers and animal breeders; and the new five-year development plan in Jordan provides for doubling efforts to increase fish production in cooperation with the private sector and cooperative societies, Dr. Lawzi pointed out.

The WFP representative in Jordan also made a speech, on the occasion outlining the organisation's projects in developing nations. Between 1963 and 1986, the WFP provided nearly \$85 million in cash and \$8 billion worth of food supplies to 120 developing nations inhabited by 250 million people who suffered from natural disasters, the representative said. He outlined the various forms of aid offered to Jordan to help it develop its highland regions.

JPMC to obtain JD 12m loan from local consortium

AMMAN (J.T.) — A consortium of 18 Jordanian banks and financial institutions will provide a syndicated loan of JD 12 million to the Jordan Phosphates Mines Company (JPMC) to help the company meet financial obligations resulting from the purchase of the Aqaba-based Jordan Fertiliser Industry Company (JFIC).

An agreement on the loan was signed in Amman on Thursday by Mr. Abdul Majid Shuman, board chairman and general manager of the Arab Bank which is lead manager of the consortium, representatives of the various institutions providing the loan, Minister of Finance Hanna Odeh, Central Bank of Jordan Governor

Hussein Al Qasem and Dr. Hashem Al Dabbas, JPMC chairman of the board.

JPMC recently purchased the JFIC after the fertiliser company sustained successive losses and the loan was requested to help settle payment for the JFIC's assets and installations.

This is the second loan of its kind obtained by JPMC. In 1982, JPMC obtained a JD 10 million loan but only used JD 3.5 million which was repaid well before the loan was due for settlement.

With the purchase of the JFIC assets, JPMC one of the largest public companies in the Kingdom, has acquired assets and capital altogether worth JD 152 million.

Delegation due in Cairo soon to prepare for joint meetings

CAIRO (Petra) — A Jordanian economic delegation, led by Mr. Mohammad Saqqaf, under secretary of the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply, is due in Cairo on Wednesday to take part in preparatory meetings for convening the Jordanian-Egyptian higher joint committee on Oct. 25, according to Egyptian Ministry of Economy and Foreign Trade officials here.

They said that the joint committee meeting is designed to further bolster forms of cooperation between the two countries in implementation of a

1985 protocol. According to the officials, the higher committee will sign two agreements on organising bilateral cooperation in judicial and energy development affairs.

A delegation representing the Egyptian textile corporation and the Ministry of Economy and Foreign Trade in Cairo is due in Amman shortly for talks on marketing Egyptian cloth and rayon and woollen clothes in Jordan. Officials in Cairo said that several Jordanian mills have placed orders with Egyptian factories for 3,000 tonnes of yarn at a cost of \$5,000 per tonne.

Organisers to hold presentation talk for marketing conference tonight

AMMAN (J.T.) — A presentation on "Advista Arabia 87," the first international conference on advertising and marketing in the Arab World, will be held at the Regency Palace Hotel today from 7:00-9:00 p.m. The presentation will be for the media, advertising agencies and

advertisers. Mr. Galal Zaki, creative director of Americana Advertising and executive vice president (AAPIC), will be presenting details on this conference which will be held in Cairo on Feb. 15-19, 1987.

'Arms deal should be a single package'

(Continued from page 1)

agreeing to a Soviet demand to curb development of "Star Wars" would be akin to having given up the use of radar in the World War II fight against the Nazis.

Star Wars "is a purely defensive, purely peaceful technology," Mr. Reagan said at a campaign rally for Republican Senator Mark Andrews. "If the Soviets honestly want progress towards a world free of nuclear weapons, they have nothing to fear from SDI."

The strategic defence initiative (SDI), known as "Star Wars," has become a fixture of Mr. Reagan's campaigning.

Mr. Reagan likened the development of the missile defence system to British development of radar in the years before World War II.

"Without radar, it's possible that the Royal Air Force wouldn't have been able to beat back the Nazi air assault on England."

"I couldn't help but think that giving up SDI would have been like (British Prime Minister Neville) Chamberlain giving up radar, as well as Czechoslovakia at Munich, a tragic blunder that could have spelled the end to freedom in Europe," Mr. Reagan said.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan confers in his office with a delegation of Roman Catholic bishops from the Middle East (Petra photo)

Prince Hassan confers with Catholic bishops

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan conferred in his office with a delegation of Roman Catholic bishops from the Middle East region who have just concluded a conference in Amman.

The delegation, led by the Patriarch of Jerusalem Jacob Biltreth, briefed Prince Hassan on the outcome of the meetings in which they discussed Islamic-Christian cooperation.

The delegation voiced their appreciation to Prince Hassan for his efforts to promote a Christian-Islamic dialogue, and Prince Hassan urged them to pursue their efforts aimed at unifying Christian and Islamic policies in the face of challenges to religion in the Middle East region.

The conference discussed continued coexistence between

Muslims and Christians, and their cooperation in religious affairs, in addition to legal aspects related to inter-marriages and civil rights, according to Father Rauf Najjar who acts for the Roman Catholic Bishop of Amman.

He said that the members of the delegation voiced appreciation of His Majesty King Hussein's efforts in guaranteeing security and decent living for Jordanians regardless of their faiths.

The delegation members discussed steps to be taken for observing the World Peace Day on Oct. 27 as announced by Pope John Paul II.

Delegates from Jordan, Palestine, Syria, Lebanon, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Djibouti and Somalia took part in the four-day conference.

Tension runs high after attack

(Continued from page 1)

commando units to carry out the Wednesday attack.

The Israeli foreign ministry on Thursday summoned Egyptian Ambassador Mohamed Bassiouni to convey Israel's "grave concern" that the PLO office in Cairo had claimed responsibility for the attack, officials said.

An government spokesman told Reuters Israel had expressed concern several times about PLO activities in Cairo which it feels are contrary to the 1979 Israeli-Egyptian treaty.

"We believe (the PLO) being allowed to operate in Cairo) is in contradiction with the new spirit of cooperation between our two countries, particularly since the September summit meeting

between Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Prime Minister Shimon Peres," the spokesman said.

In Washington, the State Department condemned the Wednesday attack.

Saying the United States condemned the attack in the strongest possible terms, State Department spokesman Pete Martinez said: "We further condemn all those elements in and out of the PLO who have asserted responsibility for this appalling act which claimed among its victims both Israelis and Arabs."

In a reference to Israeli air raids against Palestinian targets in southern Lebanon following the attack, Martinez said the United States deplored the continuing cycle of violence in the region.

Hindawi speaks of British threat

(Continued from page 1)

Hindawi, who has pleaded innocent to planting the explosives, said Wednesday that he was recruited into a drug ring in Damascus, and told by his Syrian recruit that drugs would be stored in a secret compartment in the bag. Murphy, who thought she was travelling to Israel to marry him, had never asked what was inside the bag, he said.

Hindawi testified Thursday that his first night in detention was "the worst of my life."

Hindawi, claiming he was deprived of sleep, said a detective told him that "Mossad — the Israeli intelligence service — had been asking for me officially and also the Israeli government had asked officially for me to be taken there."

"He was threatening and I was very frightened," Hindawi said. "The conversation seemed to last

years, not hours. I was scared and weak."

Testifying in his own defence for the second day, Hindawi said the officer told him he believed that Mossad "have lots of methods of punishment — killing and so on. They can get any information they want from the men they question."

He added: "I felt they were pushing me to say the Syrians were behind and involved in the whole operation."

Asked by prosecutor Roy Amiot if the Israelis were his enemy, Hindawi replied "yes." Asked if he meant Israeli civilians as well as soldiers, he replied "No." He then said he only meant soldiers.

When asked why El Al was chosen to smuggle drugs despite the airline's reputation for heavy security, Hindawi said he had not thought of that.

JTV Channel 2 preview

Saturday — Oct. 18, 1986

8:30 You Again
Suspect

The son of Henry's next door neighbour returns from college. Comparisons are inevitable between Henry's son and the student. A great sportsman, industrious, considerate, and well-mannered he may be, but Matthew proves all that glitters is not gold.

9:00 Saturday Variety Show

10:20 Feature Film

The Concorde — Airport 79

Starring: Alain Delon
Susan Blackley
Robert Wagner
George Kennedy

The story of various disasters befall the Concorde on its way from Washington to Paris.

Sunday — Oct. 19, 1986

8:30 Carol Burnett

9:10 Doc. Cosmos
Children of the Stars
Part 1

In this episode we are going to find out how the stars and wandering planets have always called to humans, and still beckon us. And why astrology is not astronomy, and peer deep into the sun, our friendly neighbourhood star.

10:20 Dallas
Strange Alliances

Monday — Oct. 20, 1986

8:30 No Place Like Home

9:10 Edge of Darkness
"Ep. 3"

Craven contacted by an American agent, Darius Jedburgh, who reveals the full scale of Emma's involvement in GAIA.

10:20 Strangers and Brothers
Ep. 3

Lewis Eliot, now 30, has left the bar to take up a part-time post at Francis Gelliffe's Cambridge College. His marriage to Sheila still causes him great unhappiness.

Tuesday — Oct. 21, 1986

8:30 Music Box

9:30 Hilary

In doing a favour for her friend and neighbour, Lyn, Hilary unwittingly finds herself adding both intrigue and confusion to the already chaotic state of her everyday life.

10:20 Dempsey and Makepeace
Extreme Prejudice

While under routine psychological assessment, Dempsey finds himself in a real-life showdown where his split-second judgment of character is a matter of life and death and dignity.



Deceptions — Wednesday at 10:20

Wednesday — Oct. 22, 1986

8:30 Three's Company

9:00 Doc. Architecture at the Crossroads
Islam

The most visual manifestation in the Arab World is its new architecture. This programme looks at Kuwait, Doha and Jeddah, where architects from all over the world are creating universities, parliament buildings and stock exchanges. Gradually, second-rate Western imports are being replaced by indigenous architecture that is helping these countries to find their own identities.

9:30 Alfred Hitchcock
Happy

10:20 Deceptions
Last episode

The police are convinced Stephanie and Carol were murdered and that Richard was involved. They ask Sahrina to help and she sets herself up as a decoy by revealing to Bryan the sisters' change of identity.

Thursday — Oct. 23, 1986

8:30 Check It Out.

9:10 Falcon Crest

10:20 Feature Film
A Case of Deadly Force
Starring: Richard Crenna
John Shea

The film is based on the true story of a lawyer's three-year legal investigation into the shooting death of a hospital worker by police officers.

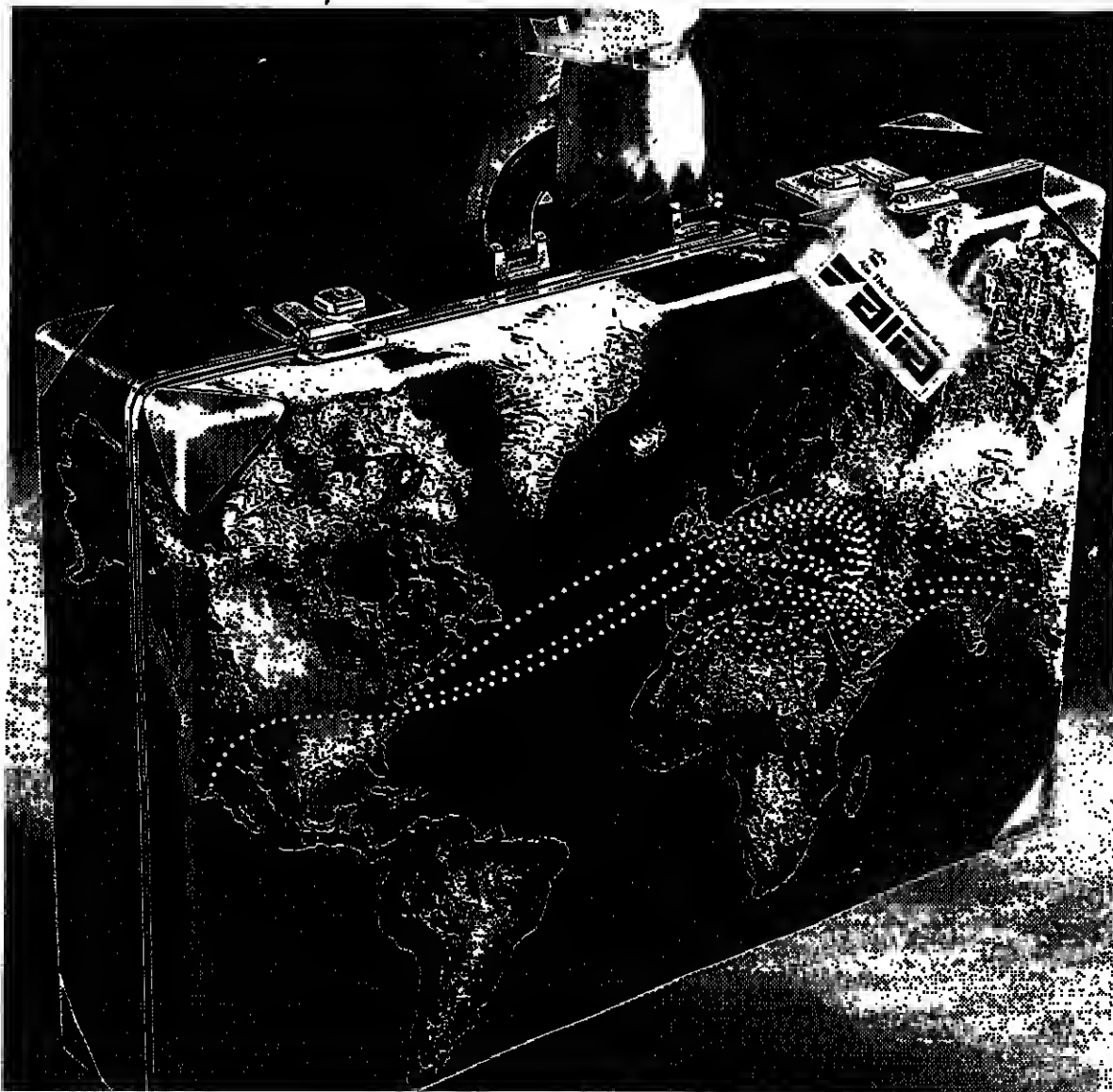
Friday — Oct. 24, 1986

9:00 Best Seller
Once an Eagle
Ep. 2

10:20 Sherlock Holmes
The Resident Patient

Mr. Blessington is a generous benefactor to young Dr. Percy Trevelyan. But after a patient disappears in mid-consultation and Blessington is found hanged, Sherlock Holmes reasons that Blessington was not the man he seemed to be.

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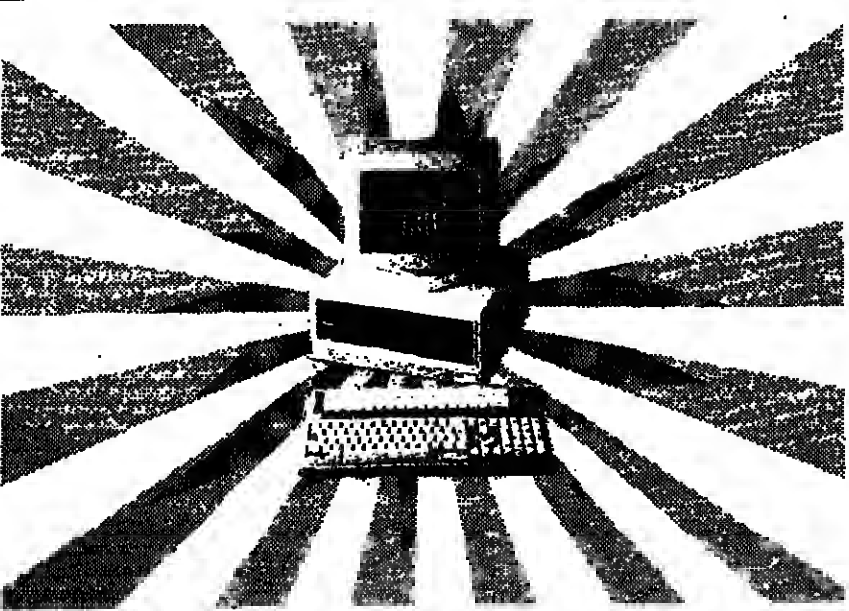
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Al Duffatein beats Al Jazira 2-0 in Jordan soccer match

By Fred Donovan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In a closely fought, physical match, Al Duffatein defeated Al Jazira 2-0 at Amman Stadium Friday. The match between the two clubs was much closer than the score suggests.

The match began slowly, with each team reluctant to take the offensive. Most of the action took place in the stands, as the substantial number of Al Duffatein fans clapped and cheered loudly.

Then, the action exploded in the 10th minute of the first half as Al Jazira had two near misses in succession.

First, Omar Kayali crossed a corner kick which Najib Banna headed off the crossbar. Then, 30 seconds later, a passing shot from Kayali deflected off an Al Duffatein defender, and then off the post.

Al Duffatein responded with pressure of its own in the 18th minute. Jihad Abdulmunem crossed the ball from the right, and

Ibrahim Sadia drove a low hard shot right at the Al Jazira goalie, Akram Daoud.

In the 36th minute of the first half, Al Duffatein's Khalid Salim was shown a yellow card when he slammed the ball into the ground following a foul call.

Al Duffatein took the initiative in the second half by applying constant pressure on the Al Jazira defence. After a number of scoring opportunities, Al Duffatein finally capitalised on a mistake by Al Jazira.

Al Duffatein's Sadia passed the ball to Jihad Abdulmunem who shot the ball hard for the right hand corner. Akram Daoud made a diving save, deflecting the ball out of the goal. But, Nazih Srour of Al Jazira, racing back to

defend, accidentally deflected the ball into his own net.

In the 25th minute, of the second half, Al Jazira's Firas Alqadi drove the ball just over the crossbar. Then, two minutes later, Al Duffatein scored again, as Sadia drove a blistering shot into the upper left hand corner.

In the remaining minutes the action became fast and furious, as each team raced up and down the field. In the 30th minute, Al Jazira's Tawfiq Alsaheb shot the ball at the left corner, which Al Duffatein's goalie, Zaher Al Namary dove and deflected wide of the net.

In the closing minutes of the game, Al Jazira made a last ditch attempt with shot by Amjad Diabat, which caromed off post. But, Al Duffatein succeeded in withstanding this last minute pressure to win.

In another Friday game in Irbid, Al Hussein beat Amman 4-1. On Thursday at Amman Stadium, Al Faisali and Al Ramtha tied 1-1 in a defence oriented match.



WINNING POLO: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan receives the polo trophy from British Minister of Energy Alastair Goodlad after a match at the polo grounds in Zarqa on Thursday. The Jordanian polo team, captained by Prince Hassan, thrashed the British team based in Cyprus 10-0. Prince Hassan was among the scorers for Jordan with two goals, including the first goal of the match.

New Zealand suffers first loss to Conner

FREMANTLE, Australia (AP) — American Dennis Conner piloted Stars and Stripes to victory Friday over New Zealand in qualifying for the America's Cup sailing series.

The powder blue American boat hammered the fiberglass Kiwi entry by 49 seconds. After trailing at the beginning of the race, Conner took command early on the first windward leg.

It was New Zealand's first defeat in 10 races, while the victory moved Stars and Stripes and America II, which defeated Azzurra on Friday, into a three-way tie with the Kiwis.

The three boats have identical first-round records with two more racing days left in the first round. Conner's race-course victory means little to the final outcome point-wise, but psychologically it was a setback for the cocky young Kiwi skipper, Chris Dickson. Winners in this first round receive only one point. Second-round victors are awarded five points, and in the all-important third

round, each race counts 12 points for the winner.

In other races, French Kiss defeated Heart of America, and White Crusader whipped Eagle. For the second straight day, Courageous IV broke a boom and was forced to retire in its race against Italia.

America II defeated Italy's Azzurra by 6:34, while Challenge France broke a halyard and was unable to finish its race against USA.

A more important, but less dramatic battle was to take place Friday night in the battle over New Zealand's fiberglass boats. Yacht club Costa Smeralda, which is in charge of the America's Cup elimination series, had called a meeting of the 13 challengers to see if they wish to change the conditions in regard to the fiberglass requirements. New Zealand could be forced to have its hull remeasured.

New Zealand reacted bitterly to the Italian yacht club's decision. The syndicate claimed in a statement that the proposed amendment is "an attempt to change the rules after the event has started."

Barcelona, Albertville selected to host summer, winter Olympics

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (AP) — The Spanish city of Barcelona and the French town of Albertville were awarded the 1992 Olympic games Friday, Barcelona getting the summer and Albertville the winter.

The announcement by International Olympic Committee President Juan Antonio Samaranch followed a five-hour voting session and capped years of campaigning by 13 cities who spent more than \$100 million.

Samaranch is a Barcelona native, but as president had stayed out of the haggling that had led up to Friday's vote. In IOC member from Spain, he did not cast a vote.

The results of the ballot cast by the 85 other members were not disclosed.

Barcelona had bid three times previously for the summer games, the last time for 1972, but until now was always second best.

The city mounted its latest campaign in the early 1980s and for the past year had been

considered the front runner among the six summer bidders.

Albertville, however, was a strong stretch runner, overtaking cities from Scandinavia and Central and Eastern Europe to give France the winter games for the third time. Chamonix and Grenoble were the previous French hosts.

Another French city, the capital Paris, had bid for the summer games and French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac had appeared before the IOC on behalf of both cities. Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez did likewise for Barcelona.

This has been a tension-filled week of presentations for the candidates and there was a definite edge on the faces of the bidding organisers as they waited for the decision.

When the summer city was announced, Barcelona's mayor, Pasquale Maragall, was thronged by his colleagues, then sat down with a shaken look.

After a moment, Samaranch opened the envelope containing the winter winner and when Albertville name's was called, Michel Barnier and former Olympic ski champion Jean-Claude Killy, the two top officials of the Albertville bid, embraced and kissed each other on the cheek.

Barcelona, the first Spanish city chosen as an Olympic host, will stage the games of the XXVth Olympiad. Because of two world wars, it will be only the 22nd edition of games.

The winter games in Albertville will be the 16th and will be the last held in the same year as the summer games.

The IOC decided earlier this week to stage the winter Olympics two years before the summer games, beginning in 1994.

The IOC said unprecedented 1,000 reporters and photographers covered the final announcement.

Boston, New York win pennants

BOSTON (R) — The Boston Red Sox capped a brilliant championship series comeback by crushing the California Angels 8-1 to capture the American League pennant.

The victory Wednesday night gave the Red Sox, who were one out away from elimination last Sunday, three straight wins and a 4-3 winning margin in the best-of-seven series.

Boston, led by the pitching of ace Roger Clemens and an opportunistic eight-hit attack against the shaky California defence, won the right to represent the American league in the world series against the New York Mets on Saturday.

The loss was a bitter pill for the Angels and their manager Gene Mauch.

In dropping three straight, California missed a chance for its first league title in 26 years of existence.

Mauch, whose 1982 Angels team also lost three straight to

Milwaukee to squander a championship, has yet to win a pennant in his 25 years of managing.

Timely hitting by the Red Sox allowed them to make the most of chances presented by the charitable Angels, who gave away seven unearned runs.

In the second inning, a wild throw by shortstop Dick Schofield allowed Jim Rice to reach base and opened the door for a three-run burst.

A base hit by Don Baylor and a walk to Dwight Evans loaded the bases following the error. Rich Gedman's ground out scored Baylor and with two outs batting champion Wade Boggs knocked in two more with a single to centre for his first RBIs of the series.

Two innings later another Angels error on the Boston lead-off batter paved the way for a four-run scoring spree.

Dave Henderson, whose two-out, two-run homer in the ninth inning of game five kept Red

Sox World Series hopes alive in Anaheim, opened with a towering drive to centre some 420 feet (128m) away. Gary Pettis raced back and snagged the ball but it popped out of his glove and Henderson raced safely into third.

Henderson came home on Spike Owen's single. Two outs later with two men on, Rice cleared the bases with a homer to left to give the Red Sox a commanding 7-0 lead.

With Clemens' 24-4 during the regular season, throwing strongly the outcome of the game was hardly in doubt after that.

Mets win

Meanwhile in Houston, Ray Knight's single capped a three-run, 16th inning as the New York Mets defeated the Houston Astros 7-6 in six games to win the National League championship and reach the World Series for the first time in 13 years.

Mets relief ace Jesse Orosco, the fourth New York pitcher of Wednesday afternoon, won his third game of the series in the longest post-season game in baseball history. Aurelio Lopez took the loss for Houston in the game which lasted four hours and 42 minutes.

This will be the Mets first appearance in the autumn classic since losing to the Oakland A's in 1973. In their only other World Series in 1969, the Mets beat a heavily favoured Baltimore Orioles.

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Performances 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **PLAZA** Tel: 677420
TEACHERS
Performances 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One sterling	1.4280/90	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3888/93	Canadian dollars
	1.9730/40	West German marks
	2.2310/20	Dutch guilders
	1.6170/80	Swiss francs
	40.97/41.02	Belgian francs
	6.4625/75	French francs
	1366/1367	Italian lire
	154.15/25	Japanese yen
	6.8175/8225	Swedish crowns
	7.2825/75	Norwegian crowns
	7.4375/4425	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	420.50/421.00	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Shares closed firm after a quiet session, rising on cheap buying after a weak start. Dealers said U.K. Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson's Mansion House speech had little overall impact. At 1430 GMT the FTSE 100 index was up 5.2 to 1,610.2 after a low Friday morning of 1,601.9.

Sterling's early retreat following Lawson's speech, which dealers said did little to calm speculation base rates might have to rise about 11 per cent, sent shares lower initially. Light bargain hunting saw prices bob up again, although dealers said there was little momentum behind the moves. Becham was 10p up at 423 following demand for its options.

Government bonds finished with declines ranging to 1-1/8 points reflecting the weaker pound and a fresh rise in money market interbank rates which now suggest U.K. clearing bank base rates might have to rise to at least 11-1/2 per cent from 11 per cent.

News British retail prices rose 0.5 per cent in September to show year on year inflation of three per cent against 2.4 per cent in August weighed on gilts but had little impact on shares.

Equity dealers said special situations again generated interest during an otherwise sluggish session. Sears finished 5p higher on press suggestions Robert Holmes a court is building a stake in the company. Other stores were dull.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, OCT. 18, 1986

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Arguments and confrontations over money, property and other practical issues can be avoided today if you take a firm stand in self-control.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Expenses may be more than you thought, but budget wisely and you can handle them easily.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) You think that your personal ambitions are more difficult to attain than ever. Take it easy and one can be yours.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You seem to be unable to rid yourself of some limiting situation. A close tie is most helpful to you.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) A stubborn person could deter you from obtaining something that is important to you.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Don't do anything that could downgrade your reputation. Avoid arguing with an influential person.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You are interested in a new venture. Confide in others who are jealous of you, or there can be trouble.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You find it hard to work out problems of a practical nature so drop them for a while.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) A person as determined as you are can try to spoil your plans today. Handle this matter tactfully.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Study your activities well and plan how to handle them wisely. Schedule them tonight.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Don't get yourself pushed into some kind of recreation that you care little for. See new places instead.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You may be having serious troubles at home. Handle this in a tactful way and it can go away.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Make sure to use much care while driving. Go over statements and reports carefully in the evening.

THE Daily Crossword

by Harold B. Counts

ACROSS

- 1 Woody fiber
- 2 One about
- 3 Jinx
- 4 Hunter
- 5 Writer
- 6 Laconic
- 7 Kind of beer
- 8 Actor James
- 9 Harp
- 10 TV soap
- 11 The son
- 12 Chess the 1st
- 13 Miss America
- 14 onco
- 15 Sault — Marie
- 16 Clever
- 17 Rattle birds
- 18 Singer
- 19 Food
- 20 Food
- 21 Mountain
- 22 symbol
- 23 game
- 24 Apply
- 25 Yellow native
- 26 — to be
- 27 — Arbor
- 28 Summer resort
- 29 near Mass.
- 30 Flowering herb
- 31 Night cry
- 32 Margarine
- 33 Chest wood
- 34 Stuffed
- 35 Unfilled
- 36 Spoiled
- 37 pictures
- 38 Aquatic
- 39 performer
- 40 Sloganeer's catch

DOWN

- 1 A Crosby
- 2 To — (society)
- 3 Head heavily
- 4 Fall
- 5 Brought to mind
- 6 Unseen
- 7 Orchestral
- 8 Landed catches
- 9 Cork
- 10 Fearful girl
- 11 QED word
- 12 Movie dog
- 13 Square dance
- 14 Rogers and Clark
- 15 Deflate
- 16 Inc. leader
- 17 Closer to Grant
- 18 Awkward
- 19 Summer TV
- 20 Hood's places
- 21 Belpop Lat.
- 22 Chummy boat
- 23 Scarf's
- 24 home
- 25 Clear
- 26 Low
- 27 Of a speech
- 28 sound
- 29 Vacillates
- 30 Unseen
- 31 Gun gp.
- 32 Cuts
- 33 — for tanks?
- 34 Over again
- 35 Travel
- 36 Despot
- 37 Belot
- 38 Hebrides
- 39 Island
- 40 Shattered
- 41 Actual
- 42 Police

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS

1. Aired
2. Alan
3. Sizable
4. Brie
5. Roon
6. Tiarde
7. Elia
8. Antio
9. Tio
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DOWN

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White House orders government shut down in row over spending

WASHINGTON (R) — The White House budget office ordered all federal agency heads to begin shutting down federal government operations at noon on Friday as the Congress remained entangled in a spending row.

The order came after Congress' failure to pass by midnight Thursday night an omnibus \$576 billion spending bill that would keep the government funded through the end of the current fiscal year, which began Oct. 1.

Since the dispute began, the government has remained active only through a succession of temporary spending bills, the last of which expired at midnight Thursday.

White House budget office spokesman Edwin Dale said agency heads were told to send home all non-essential workers, estimated at 500,000 nationwide, at noon Friday. The total federal work force numbers about 2.2 million.

Taiwan stocks set record

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — Stockbrokers set off fireworks Friday when surging share prices on the Taiwan stock market pushed the exchange index above the 1,000-point barrier for the first time.

The index closed at a record 1,003.56, up 15.31 points from Thursday. The previous record of 995.99 was set in mid-July.

Officials said trading totalled 5.2 billion Taiwan dollars (\$140 million), surpassing the previous record of 4.4 billion Taiwan dollars (\$119 million) set on Tuesday.

Brokers said the active trading reflected confidence in the economy. The government

All essential government functions, such as air traffic control, banking system supervision, law enforcement and federal health programmes will be maintained despite the shutdown, government officials said.

Congress was expected to try to complete action later Friday on the spending bill so it can move towards election-year adjournment.

The Republican-led senate tentatively approved the measure — which funds all major government operations, slows the growth of President Ronald Reagan's military buildup and provides \$100 million for Nicaraguan rebels — by voice vote Thursday.

But it continued to debate into the early hours of Friday over an air force T46 trainer aircraft and several other disputed amendments on which it must act separately in hopes of finishing the largest single spending bill in

history. The compromise bill contains \$290 billion for defence, cuts foreign aid by eight per cent over 1986 and provides \$3.5 billion for Mr. Reagan's cherished "Star Wars" missile defence programme.

It also includes \$200 million in special economic aid for the Philippines as well as \$50 million in disaster aid for El Salvador and guts a package of arms control provisions the House of Representatives adopted last August.

In the past, the government has gone through the motions of preparing for a shutdown, hoping to force Congress into finishing action on the permanent spending bill.

Senate Republican leader Robert Dole urged senators to hurry, saying the Democratic-led house had served notice it would refuse to pass another short-term money bill so it could adjourn.

Sterling sinks

LONDON (R) — Sterling fell sharply go foreign exchanges Friday after British Chancellor of the Exchequer (Finance Minister) Nigel Lawson failed to give any reassurance about the pound's prospects in a key speech, dealers said.

Addressing bankers and businessmen at an annual banquet in the city of London financial district Thursday night, Mr. Lawson defended his decision last week to raise interest rates by just one percentage point.

Currency markets had been looking for a further increase of at least another point to halt a run on sterling.

Mr. Lawson indicated that he had no plans to change the government's monetary strategy. Sterling fell to record lows against the West German mark, opening at 2.8240 marks compared with its close at 2.8397 marks Thursday, and continued to slip as trading got under way.

In trade-weighted terms, in a basket of 18 currencies, it was worth only 67.3 per cent of its 1975 value after dropping four points from Thursday.

At the beginning of September, it stood at 71.7 on the trade weighted index.

Dealers were pessimistic about sterling's prospects as weaker oil prices, and figures expected to show a slight rise in consumer inflation, contributed to pressure on the pound.

Foreign exchange markets were also disappointed by Mr. Lawson's failure to mention sterling's possible entry into the exchange rate grid of the European Monetary System.

In Bonn, West Germany's Finance Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg, Thursday dampened hopes of a cut in the country's key interest rates, citing excessive growth in West German money supply.

Mr. Stoltenberg, reporting to parliament on the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank meeting in Washington, said money growth was currently exceeding targets set by the Bundesbank.

OPEC narrows differences

GENEVA (R) — OPEC oil ministers meeting here Friday reported progress towards an elusive agreement to set production controls to buoy prices in the prevailing world glut.

At a news conference, however, OPEC President Rilwanu Lukman of Nigeria stressed that much work needed to be done before the 13 exporters could resolve problems over production quotas.

Ministers of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) have been meeting for 12 days to try to set quotas. A present, makeshift agreement curbing output expires on Oct. 31 and the group fears that failure to agree here on new controls could mean oil prices tumbling from around \$14 a barrel to below \$10.

Mr. Lukman told newsmen that the ministers had reached broad agreement defining the parameters, or economic criteria, on which new, permanent quotas could be based.

The ministers had also progressed on attaching weightings to the criteria but it was "jumping the gun" to talk of final accord on that.

One nation, he said, had reservations on what had been agreed so far and needed time to consider the matter.

Delegates said they understood that Venezuela wanted external debt to be one of the parameters, alongside seven others — past oil production, oil reserves, output capacity, population, dependence

on oil exports within the economy, cost of producing oil and internal oil consumption.

Saudi Arabia, said Friday by Gulf Bankers, to want to restore stability in the oil market as it seeks to meet budget revenue needs, has been insisting that OPEC should try to reach a set of permanent output quotas, a goal that has eluded it for years.

Iran sponsored the present makeshift agreement under which Saudi Arabia has implied that its quota is too small. Its Gulf ally Kuwait openly called the stopgap agreement unfair and wants to sell more oil.

Mr. Lukman noted that "weightings and parameters are only elements that go into computing quotas."

While reasserting OPEC's goal of driving oil prices to \$19 by year-end, he appeared to concede the possibility that a final accord on permanent quotas might not be clinched here.

He said that OPEC could still consider the option of extending the present agreement but this would arise "only if we feel we are unable to reach an acceptable quota distribution between now and the end of October."

Libyan Oil Minister Fawzi Shakhshouki told reporters: "we are narrowing the differences and

have made real progress." Delegates explained that, in the attempt to set new quotas, weightings would be attached to the agreed economic criteria, or "parameters" as OPEC aides call them.

Quotas would then be set as percentages of an agreed total volume of oil, which could slide up and down with seasonal variations in demand for the group's oil.

No minister can easily commit his country to an agreement binding it to restrict sales over a long period.

A senior OPEC official emphasised that more discussion would be needed on the key issue of weightings to attach to the various criteria.

The Gulf states, with tiny populations and huge oil reserves, would gain unfairly if too much weight were attached to oil-related "parameters."

That gain would be at the cost of cash-pinehed countries like Indonesia and Nigeria, with large populations but modest reserves of oil and capacity to produce.

Another crucial issue is the ceiling on total OPEC volume within which new quotas could be assigned. Mr. Lukman made plain that this had not yet been discussed.

Market experts see little scope for the group to raise its present ceiling of about 17 million barrels daily by more than 500,000 barrels at most, leaving little scope to accommodate the exporters' competing demands to sell more oil.

Debate on privatisation stresses need to safeguard public interest

(Continued from page 3)

high-spirit.

Administrative court

Ms. Muheiba Haddadin, a lawyer, demanded that a specialised administrative court be set up to protect public interests should the government decide to push through its privatisation drive. "The public sector is a better guardian," she added.

Ms. Haddadin pointed out that the privatisation programme in Britain was based on the freedom of expression. She noted that government regulations prohibit unfair trading in the United Kingdom where, unlike Jordan, the supervision is strict.

Dr. Fahed Al Fanek singled out better management as the only advantageous result from privatisation. He dismissed the competition factor as a possible result.

Dr. Fanek called for the elimination of all restrictions on economic activities and for denationalisation as a first step towards privatisation.

In this regard, he criticised the appointing of government representatives as members on the public shareholding companies' board of directors.

Mr. Mohammad Al Dabbas, ex-finance minister and a leading businessman, drew great attention and won much applause from the audience for his frankness and

Accountability

Mr. Dabbas' strong remarks centred on the areas of accountability, the absence of a political framework incorporating a specific economic policy, and business ethics.

He voiced special concern about declining efficiency and productivity. He attributed the problem not only to the lack of a clear concept, but also to "understanding practices" such as the evasion of financial obligations by some large corporations.

Another speaker said that privatisation is an unpopular decision. He did not elaborate.

Responding to the comments made by the audience, Dr. Muasher reiterated that efficiency was the basic consideration in the government's privatisation programme. However, he rejected the insinuation of inefficiency in the public sector. He said that 38 private firms (public shareholding companies) are facing total collapse and that the Ministry of Industry and Trade is studying the cases with a view to rectifying the situation.

He also said that the government would not privatise institutions that are operating at a profit, and that entities which could not survive with government subsidy would also be

excluded.

Loss-making corporations or any other entities which have improved efficiency and performance would not be privatised, Dr. Muasher added.

He emphasised that, if and when privatisation takes place, there would be strict government supervision and no room whatsoever for monopolies.

He agreed that the AFM is incapable of handling large share flotations, and he called for coordination between both the private and the public sector to achieve a common economic understanding.

Moreover, Dr. Muasher highlighted the need for privatisation, as it would help the government undergo a cost benefit analysis which is not existent at present.

Dr. Saleem urged more accuracy in future dialogues and underlined the importance of leadership, experience and responsibility in carrying duties.

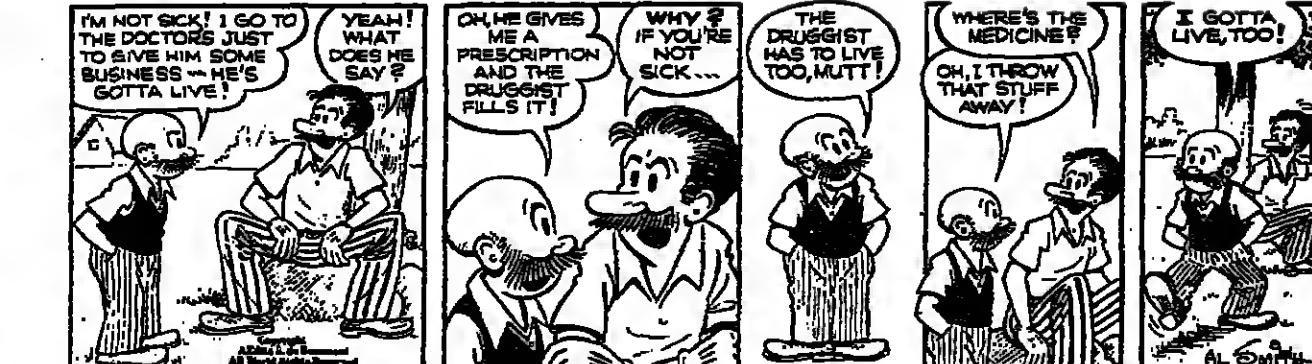
Dr. Saleem said that Jordan does not have an economic ideology and that it will be years before such a concept is formulated. He added that it is far better for Jordan not to frame itself into any specific ideology.

Dr. Saleem suggested drawing standards for innovative and exceptional achievements and to formulate an objective evaluation scheme that would bring in solid accountability at a later stage.

Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



JUMBLE.

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TCHAB
KORJE
DILQUI
UPVERY



Print answer here: _____

Yesterday's Jumbles: OAKEN MERGE POSTAL NUMBER

Answer: A person who wakes up to find himself famous may not have this — BEEN ASLEEP

Aquino discusses ceasefire with Communist guerrillas

ILOILO, Philippines (R) — President Corazon Aquino slipped out of sight Friday to speak to representatives of the banned Philippines Communist Party about prospects for a ceasefire in the 17-year-old guerrilla insurgency.

A joint statement issued later said Mrs. Aquino, breaking from a meet-the-people tour of the Central Philippines, discussed a truce with two rebel representatives who came out of hiding to meet her at a convent on the island of Panay.

The statement, issued after the unscheduled 35 minute meeting at the main town of Iloilo, said: "Both sides were open to the idea of a ceasefire while talks on issues regarding the island of Panay are being discussed."

It was believed to be the first time Mrs. Aquino has met people who say they are Communist Party leaders, although they were introduced to her only as local representatives.

The emissaries were a former Roman Catholic priest and a daughter of a former town mayor who had gone underground.

Presidential spokesman Teodoro Benigno said he believed the national leaders of the Communist Party had authorised the two local rebel leaders to meet Mrs. Aquino.

He quoted the president as saying the next step would be to designate a panel in the shortest possible time to discuss demands and issues of the rebels.

"The talks are supposed to be quite soon," he added.

The ceasefire and high-level peace talks with guerrillas are suspended but expected to resume

soon.

Scores of reporters, press photographers and television crew have been trailing Mrs. Aquino, but she gave them the slip and went to the unannounced meeting.

Mr. Benigno said he did not know who had arranged the meeting and added: "As a matter of fact we in the cabinet were caught by surprise by what happened this morning."

Mrs. Aquino arrived in Iloilo from the neighbouring island of Negros where a planned meeting with Communist leaders was called off at the last moment because the rebels involved feared for their safety. Bacolod Bishop Antonio Fortich said.

Bureau sources close to Fortich said he arranged Friday's meeting between Mrs. Aquino and Father Jose "Boy" Torre of the Communist-dominated National Democratic Front (NDF) and Concha Aranceta Bocala, the daughter of a former town mayor.

The sources said Fortich slipped a note to the president during lunch Thursday informing her of the talks.

President Aquino was reported Thursday as saying she was the victim of an unholy alliance with Defence Minister Juan Ponce Enrile, who helped her rise to power in February.

Bishop Fortich of Bacolod quoted Mrs. Aquino as telling him

that "she had become a victim of an unholy alliance with Enrile."

Fortich did not elaborate or say when Mrs. Aquino had made the remark, which follows reports of a widening rift between Mr. Enrile and Mrs. Aquino. But he added that Armed Forces Commander Gen. Fidel Ramos was "balancing things and is pro-Cory."

The bishop was escorting Mrs. Aquino on a visit to Negros Occidental province, the once prosperous "sugar bowl" of the Philippines, where she announced a major land distribution for displaced plantation workers and farmers.

A military revolt led by Mr. Enrile and Gen. Ramos helped topple Ferdinand Marcos in February and install Mrs. Aquino in office. Mr. Enrile also was Marcos' defence minister.

"We appreciated Enrile's and Ramos' efforts during the revolution," Mrs. Aquino told reporters who asked her what she thought of Mr. Enrile's attitude.

Mr. Enrile takes a hard line against Communist-led rebels and almost daily criticises Mrs. Aquino's efforts to seek reconciliation with the insurgents.

His comments have fuelled speculation of differences with Mrs. Aquino and he frequently has been linked to rumours of coup.

Mr. Enrile did not attend a cabinet meeting on Tuesday but appeared at a dentist's meeting in a Manila hotel. He said it was his prerogative not to attend cabinet meetings.

Gen. Ramos, who accompanied Mrs. Aquino to Bacolod, told reporters the armed forces supported her government.

Seoul opposition urges Chun to resign

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — The major opposition party Friday called on President Chun Doo Hwan's government to resign, to assume responsibility for arresting an opposition lawmaker.

The New Korea Democratic Party (NKDP) also called ruling party action in the National Assembly that led to the arrest of representative Yoo Sung-Hwan "a scheme to extend power" and said:

"In order to fulfill the sacred assignment, mandated by the people, for the defence of democracy, we will fight at the risk of everything we have, including assemblyship."

The statement was contained in a resolution issued after a general meeting of its lawmakers members at the main assembly chamber, where they had been staging a sit-in since Thursday afternoon.

After the meeting, the opposition legislators ended their sit-in.

The resolution called the ruling party's vote Thursday night to allow the prosecution to arrest Mr. Yoo for his remarks in the assembly "illegal and void."

It called for Vice Speaker Choi Young-Choul to resign for officiating at a brief session for the unanimous vote that was held without the attendance of opposition or minority parties.

The opposition party said it will hold a caucus Saturday to chart its strategy.

Earlier, dissident leader Kim Young-Sam denounced the government party action, and said: "I cannot but express my serious worry over the future of our nation."

The prosecutor's office accused Mr. Yoo of violating the tough national security laws by distributing to outsiders in copies of an assembly speech before he made it Tuesday. In his remarks, he asked whether national priorities should emphasise anti-Communism or unification of the divided Korean peninsula.

Government authorities reacted swiftly, charging he had echoed North Korean propaganda. If tried and convicted, Mr. Yoo could face up to seven years in prison on charges of comforting or sympathising with the Communist cause.

5 new members elected to Security Council

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Argentina, West Germany, Italy, Japan and Zambia have been elected by the General Assembly to two-year terms on the 15-member Security Council, beginning next Jan. 1.

They will replace Trinidad and Tobago, Australia, Denmark, Thailand and Madagascar, which step down at the end of this year.

The council is the U.N. body responsible for the maintenance of peace and security.

Its other five non-permanent members, whose terms do not expire until the end of 1987, are Bulgaria, Congo, Ghana, United Arab Emirates and Venezuela.

The five permanent members, with veto powers, are Britain, China, France, the Soviet Union and the United States.

The new members were all the unopposed candidates of their respective regional groups.

Their election by the 159-member General Assembly was thus largely a formality, although a number of votes were cast for other countries during the secret balloting. Zambia received 144 votes, Argentina and Italy 143 each, West Germany 111 and Japan 107.

KUNMING, China (R) — A Chinese official said Friday he was amazed by remarks by Queen Elizabeth's husband, the Duke of Edinburgh, and a British official said the comments had marred an otherwise successful royal tour of China.

The Duke and Queen Elizabeth spoke to a group of British students while visiting the central Chinese city of Xian Thursday, and one of the students told reporters the duke had commented light-heartedly that they would end up with "silly eyes" if they spent too long in China.

Prince Philip was also reported as describing Peking as "ghostly" during the off-the-cuff private chat with the students from Edinburgh University studying Chinese in Xian.

A Chinese official, asked about the remarks, told Reuters he was amazed by the incident.

"I can't believe he would have said such a thing," the official said. "I hope it is not true. Would he not have realised the consequences of saying such a thing?"

"It has certainly taken the edge off what has been a very successful visit," one British official travelling with the royal couple commented to reporters.

But the duke was unrepentant.

During a tour of a temple near the south west Chinese city of Kunming this morning, the duke was asked by a reporter: "Do you think you were too blunt with the Edinburgh students?"

"I thought the Edinburgh students were rather tactless," the duke replied with a smile.

Asked about the duke's "silly eyes" comment at a briefing Thursday night, the Queen's Press

African writer wins Nobel for literature; American named for economic prize

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) — Nigerian writer Wole Soyinka, Africa's first Nobel laureate, says the literature prize awarded him Thursday comes as a belated recognition of the richness of African culture.

"I am very happy about it. African culture and creativity has not always been rightly appreciated by other cultures such as the European," said Soyinka, who arrived in Paris early Thursday from New York.

Soyinka, 52-year-old author of about 20 major works, was described in the academy citation as a writer "who in a wide cultural perspective and with poetic overtones fashions the drama of existence."

The Swedish Academy, which awards all but one of the 12 Nobel Prizes, had long been criticised for giving too few prizes to candidates from Third World countries.

Soyinka was the first African prizewinner, and Chinese writers have never been awarded.

Americans won six of the 11 other Nobel Prizes. On Thursday, the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economics went to James McGill

Buchanan, who was cited for his grafting of economic theory to political decision-making.

The academy's Permanent Secretary Sture Allen said Soyinka was chosen for his literary qualities and that the 18-member awarding body had "not responded to outside pressure."

But she acknowledged the prize committee had been slow in recognising the literature of the Third World.

"It has been a long process for the academy to orientate itself in this world of literature... we are working hard to broaden our perspective as much as possible," she said.

Writing in English, Soyinka has published drama, novels and poetry, among them the novel *The Interpreters* (1956) and the play *Death and the King's Horseman*, to be staged in New York next year.

Soyinka was imprisoned during the Nigerian civil war in the late 1960s. He later lived abroad for periods but has returned to his home in Abeokuta, Nigeria.

Economics prizewinner Buchanan said in a comment from

Fairfax, Virginia, "the honour was a total shock and surprise for me."

Buchanan, 67, is general director of George Mason University's Centre for Public Choice, which applies economic analysis to political problems.

Economists who apply the "public-choice" theory argue, for example, that a budget deficit is allowed to grow because politicians try to win voters by spending on projects rather than cutting costs for the benefit of the public.

The award to Buchanan marked the 14th time the prize was awarded to an American since the economics prize was instituted by the Swedish Central Bank 18 years ago.

Except for the literature prize and the physics prize, which was shared by two West Germans and a Swiss researcher, Americans dominated this year's Nobel awards.

Each prize is worth two million Swedish kronor (\$290,000). The awards are to be handed to the laureates at traditional ceremonies in Stockholm and Oslo on Dec. 10.

They told Reuters the assistance was part of a U.S. programme launched about three years ago to help improve civilian airport security against international terrorism.

"This is not military aid, neither is it an aid grant and there are no treaties, no obligations involved at all," Deputy Chief of Mission Edward Marks said.

Sri Lankan aviation officials will visit the United States to exchange ideas with their U.S. counterparts, observe security systems in airports and possibly undergo some short training, Mr. Marks said.

Sri Lanka said a Sri Lankan mission would visit the United States next month to discuss the details.

United States, the major nations with interests in the South Pacific, were aware of Soviet initiatives in the region, he said.

"Without dramatising, it is now time for us to be vigilant and alert," said Mr. Flosse, who's full title is secretary of state for the South Pacific.

But Mr. Flosse said France would not sign the South Pacific nuclear-free zone treaty drafted by the 13 independent states of the South Pacific at Rarotonga in the Cook Islands last year.

Mr. Flosse said France and French Polynesia wanted stronger links with Australia in particular, one of the strongest critics of French policies in the Pacific.

Australia, France and the

appropriation of more than \$5 million in aid funds for the small Pacific islands in the next 18 months, and personal visits by Mr. Flosse to the tiny island states of the region.

"I believe it is time for us to stick together and be able to discuss matters of common interest," he said.

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Australia, France and the

Wednesday Gen. Najibullah reviewed the withdrawal of more than 1,000 Soviet troops of a tank regiment from Shindand in western Afghanistan.

A second infantry regiment and three anti-aircraft regiments are also due to leave the country this month under a plan announced by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev last July 28.

Soviet officers say the six regiments being withdrawn contain about 8,000 troops in total.

The United States and Pakistan, which support Muslim rebels fighting Soviet and Afghan government forces, have dismissed the withdrawal as a cosmetic gesture and called for a complete end to the almost seven-year armed Soviet involvement in Afghanistan.

Western specialists estimate Moscow has about 115,000 troops stationed in the country.

Soviet officers have said the withdrawal will not weaken the military position of the combined Communist forces in Afghanistan.

They have described it as a goodwill gesture aimed at speeding up a political settlement of the war.

Several Soviet soldiers questioned by Western reporters at Kunduz said they had seen no action in some two years of

service. They said they had been assigned to defend the main road leading through Kunduz, which lies north of the snow-capped Hindu Kush Mountains around Kabul.

Gen. Najibullah, a former security police chief, delivered a speech resembling the one he gave in Shindand, condemning the United States, Iran and Pakistan for aiding the rebels and praising the Soviet role in his country.

Gen. Najibullah, who complained that young men were evading military service in a speech to his party Central Committee last July, told the Soviet soldiers that the Afghan government forces had shown now that they could operate independently.

Western diplomats said Afghan army numbers could still be as low as 40,000 despite a recent recruiting drive, and added that Soviet airborne and other special units had taken on the brunt of the fighting.

They later watched a spectacular dance display by minority inhabitants of this remote region.

After the display, the duke ushered the queen into position so that photographers could snap them both with the brightly dressed dancers.

"Thank you, sir," shouted one of the British photographers.

"Well, I have got to do something right sometime," replied the duke.

The royal couple will depart on board their private yacht *Britannia* from the South China port of Canton Saturday evening.

The duke will be returning several days later in his capacity as president of the World Wildlife Fund to visit a giant-panda reserve in the central province of Sichuan.

Int'l Brigades return to Spain 50 years later

MADRID (R) — A few hundred white-haired survivors of the International Brigades have gathered here to tour battlefields where they fought in the Spanish civil war half a century ago. There were emotional embraces as some of the veterans, in their 70s and 80s, met for the first time since the war. Organisers said "Brigadistas" from 24 countries had answered their call to return to Spain 50 years after they gathered from all over the world to support the republic against the late General Francisco Franco.

Among them were French resistance hero Henri Rol-Tanguy and retired Russian Lt. Gen. Alexander Osijenko. About 32,000 foreign volunteers fought in the International Brigades from 1936 to November 1938, when they marched out of Barcelona to the words of Communist leader Dolores Ibarruri "La Pasionaria": "You can go proudly. You are history. You are legend." The strongest foreign contingents in the war were an estimated 9,000 French, 3,100 Poles, 2,950 Italians, 2,300 Americans, 2,200 Germans and 1,800 Britons.

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MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — A teen-aged girl died after being buried in an avalanche of rice during a school outing to a grain silo, police said Friday. They said 14-year-old Michelle Thomas was sucked under tons of rice that suddenly shifted while she played Thursday in a giant storage bin at the Moulamein rice factory in Victoria state. A classmate claved frantically to rescue her friend. Michelle was pulled free 15 minutes later and pronounced dead on arrival at Barham Memorial Hospital, police said.

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Ershad wins presidential poll, denies vote rigging

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) — President Hussain Muhammad Ershad, after easily winning reelection as predicted, has curbed dismissed charges he stole the vote.

With more than 21,000 of the 23,461 polling stations reporting by late Thursday, Gen. Ershad had 20,282,364 votes to about 1.4 million for his nearest opponent among the 11 challengers.

The major opposition parties, which presented no candidates and urged a boycott of the balloting, accused Gen. Ershad's Jatiya Party of rigging the vote and said the real turnout in Wednesday's election was so low it made the results in sham.

The official election commission said the turnout was more than 50 per cent.

Reporters who visited polling stations in and around Dhaka witnessed people casting more than one vote and few voters. Independent newspapers also reported low turnout in five other cities.

In the countryside, where many areas are flooded after more than two weeks of heavy rain, the picture was unclear.

"I do not acknowledge the fact of rigging," Gen. Ershad told a news conference Thursday. Asked about the alleged low turnout, he said: "Even if the turnout is 3 per cent and I get the vote, I am elected president of this country."

Gen. Ershad, a 56-year-old former army chief of staff, seized power and imposed martial law in 1982 after leading a coup that ousted the civilian government.

Gen. Ershad, who campaigned on a promise to return the country to democratic rule, repeated his pledge to call parliament into

session in about two weeks to end martial law, but he refused to be specific when asked name the date when military rule will end.

He alleged when questioned about allegations published in the London Observer that he had stashed away \$50 million in foreign banks. The report was repeatedly raised against him during the campaign.

"This has never been an issue with the people of Bangladesh," he said. He has previously denied the report.

Sheikh Hasina Wajed of the opposition Awami League said the actual turnout was about 1 per cent of the 47.9 million eligible voters among a population of 100 million, and claimed success for the boycott. It appeared that fear of violence in the general strike caused some voters to stay home.

Two protest rallies on Thursday, one called by the Awami League and the other by the fundamentalist Muslim Jamaat Islami, together drew about 8,000 people.

A diplomatic source said his conversations with Bangladeshis led him to believe that many failed to vote because there was no interest in an election where Gen. Ershad was essentially unchallenged.

Gen. Ershad's nearest opponent was fundamentalist Muslim M.M. Khatife Huzur, who won 1.4 million votes, and ex-army officer Syed Farook Reza, an independent who got 1.1 million votes.

Meanwhile four opposition leaders, who had been taken into custody before this week's presidential election, have been freed from jail, opposition sources said.

U.S. urges Japan to help NATO allies

TOKYO (AP) — Japan should offer technology to help certain allies of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation bolster their defence capabilities, assistant U.S. Defence Secretary Richard Perle said Friday.

Japanese high technology could be used to upgrade the defence of such NATO countries as Turkey and Portugal, Mr. Perle said in an interview with Asian journalists.

"One of the areas in which Japan has a significant contribution to make is in its advanced technology, which can make the utilisation of limited defence resources in other countries far more efficient than it is today," Mr. Perle said.

"We would very much like to see a more vigorous Japanese programme of assistance to other countries who have joined together in the defence of our democracies who need help, and I have in mind the southern region of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) countries like Turkey and Portugal, for example, who play a vital role in maintaining the sea lines of communication beyond the distance in which Japan has that responsibility, but sea lines of communication that are vital for the security of Japan."

Mr. Perle did not say what kind of technology could be transferred by Japan, which is prohibited from exporting weapons.

"Japan has, I need hardly say, an enormously productive economy, a remarkably successful high-technology industrial base, and I believe there is a great deal that Japan can do apart from its own self defence forces to strengthen the ability of the democratic world to resist Soviet encroachment," Mr. Perle said.

"I believe that Japan could do far more than it is now doing without a massive increase in its own limited military capacity to join with its friends and allies around the world in sharing the burdens of defence more fairly and more equally."

Mr. Perle accused the Soviet Union of scuttling the meeting a week ago between U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in Iceland by insisting that the United States abandon testing of its programme for space-based defensive weapons, the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI).

The Soviets have their own version of SDI, Mr. Perle said, "and have deployed a strategic defence around Moscow... limited by the ABM (antiballistic missile) treaty, but it does have 100 interceptors."

He said the proposal eliminating intermediate-range nuclear forces from Europe and reducing Soviet INF strength in Asia to 100 warheads was "a breathtaking reduction."

Under that agreement, the Soviets would reduce their entire INF arsenal from some 1,400 warheads to 100, and limit the number of launchers.

When entries to dummy are scarce, make sure that you use those you have to best effect. This hand is from the recent Cummoo Market Championships.

North was somewhat forward in accepting his partner's game try.